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SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 APRIL 1987

PNC Session in Algiers

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat addressed the 20 April opening session in a speech broadcast by Algiers Voice of Palestine radio, asserting that this PNC will be a session of "national unity" and of "the steadfastness of the Palestinian refugee camps." The PLO leader expressed thanks to President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian people for hosting the PNC, and he also lauded Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "who brought great influence to bear to make this Palestinian dialogue successful." Reaffirming the PLO's support for an international conference, 'Arafat stressed that the PLO does not fight Israel for the sake of fighting, but in order to achieve a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace. The radio carried other speeches at the opening session by PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, and YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

A *Jordan Times* report on the PNC session noted that the factions represented are Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Arab Liberation Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party. While the Abu Nidal group announced that it had decided to boycott the PNC, sources close to the PLO leadership said the other factions had decided not to allow the renegade group to attend. Col al-Qadhdhafi's failure to attend the session was due to "security reasons," the paper said. The *Jordan Times also carried the text of a PLO Executive Committee* statement issued on the eve of the PNC which confirmed the PLO's decision to abrogate the 1985 Amman agreement while stressing the organization's desire to find a "new framework for joint efforts with Jordan and other Arab countries." PFLP leader George Habash told journalists that the abrogation of the Amman accord means that the Damascus-based Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) is now "dismantled," the paper noted. However, this was contested by a PNSF spokesman in Damascus, who stressed that the PFLP's withdrawal from the PNSF does not mean the latter will be dissolved, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

In a separate development, Habash held talks with the chief Iraqi delegate at the PNC, KUNA disclosed, noting that this was the first high-level PFLP-Iraqi meeting for several years. In other talks on the sidelines of the conference, the PDRY's Al-Bid discussed Yemeni unification with the YAR foreign minister, ANA reported.

Iran

In remarks cited by Tehran radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that if the United States demonstrates its "good will" by releasing Iranian assets, the Islamic Republic will attempt to mediate the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon. However, he expressed doubt about the efficacy of such action, charging that the United States failed to fulfill previous promises to the Lebanese. Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed contacts with the U.S. Government "an experiment" through which Iran learned that the U.S. attitude to the Islamic Republic was unchanged. He declared that the United States gained more because Iran "helped obtain" the release of some hostages. If the United States had kept its promise and used its influence to have Lebanese prisoners set free, more U.S. hostages might have been released, Hashemi-Rafsanjani contended.

On the subject of the war with Iraq, Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated Iran's rejection of a Ramadan cease-fire and said that Iran will launch "the great offensive" when conditions are "ready." He noted that free navigation in the Gulf is "not an issue" for Iran, pointing out that Iran has not "assumed responsibility" for attacking any ships in the Gulf. Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned, however, that the oil of some Gulf countries will not be "immune" if carried by U.S. or Soviet tankers. "We will retaliate, and we are not afraid." he declared. The speaker denied that elements of the guards and mobilization corps have shown diapproval of the war and have refused to go to the front because of the high casualties.

Israel and the USSR

Israel has not been notified by the Soviet Union of the latter's intentions regarding the dispatch of a Soviet consular delegation to Israel, according to Foreign Ministry sources cited by *The Jerusalem Post*. The sources were responding to Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy's reported statement in Kuwait that the USSR has cancelled the visit because Israel exploited the issue for propaganda purposes.

UAE-USSR

Foreign Ministry official Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid told WAM that his talks with Vladimir Petrovskiy focused on the issues of free navigation in the Gulf, the Iran-Iraq war, and the possibilities for convening an international conference on the Middle East. In remarks cited by the agency, Petrovskiy stressed the peace conference as the most important topic of his talks. While ruling out the feasibility of convening it this year, the Soviet official urged that 1988 be designated the "Year of the International Conference."

Afghanistan

The United States and Pakistan share "grave responsibility" for "provocative actions" such as the recent cross-border attack against Soviet guards, a *Bakhtar* "announcement" carried by Kabul radio charged. The announcement declared that the "servants of Washington and Islamabad" are trying to divert world attention from the escalation of the "undeclared war" as well as to "sabotage" the process of national reconciliation and efforts to find a political solution to the Afghanistan "situation."

Syria-Iran

President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam who delivered a letter from the Iranian president and received Al-Asad's reply, Damascus radio reported. While discussing bilateral relations and the regional situation with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Sheykh ol-Eslam reiterated his country's support for Syria's "steadfastness" and noted that Iran "strongly rejects peace and compromise" with Israel.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Pacific — The small nations of the Pacific Ocean are endangered by France, the United States, Britain, Zionism, and racism, which want to transform the Pacific into a region for nuclear tests and waging World War III, Col al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech broadcast by Tripoli television. Speaking at a conference of "revolutionary and progressive" forces and "peace movements" from the Pacific, the Libyan leader told these "dynamic" forces that their small states and dispersed islands would carry more political weight if they join together in an anti-imperialist international front.

Western Sahara Policy — The Foreign Liaison Bureau summoned Arab ambassadors to express Libya's solidarity with Mauritania over the Moroccan-built wall along the Mauritanian border, Tripoli radio reported. Stressing Libya's view that Morocco "receives orders from Americans and Israelis and has become an agent for colonialist circles," the Bureau urged other Arab states to oppose the Moroccan king's "treacherous" policy.

Maghreb Affairs

Algeria-USSR — An "important" Algerian military delegation was welcomed by the chief of the Soviet General Staff at the start of an official visit to the USSR, APS reported.

Tunisia — The Court of Appeal sentenced former Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali in absentia to 15 years hard labor and heavy fines on corruption charges, KUNA disclosed.

Sudan-Egypt

In a statement cited by MENA, Sudanese State Council official Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah disclosed that Egypt consented to provide "support" to the Sudanese Armed Forces. During 'Abdallah's visit to Cairo last week, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak urged Sudan to be "cautious" and noted that whatever affects Sudanese security also affects Egypt.

Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Presidential Council, reiterated to the outgoing Egyptian ambassador Sudan's invitation for the Egyptian president to visit, Omdurman radio reported.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Palestinian Groups, Libya Boycotting PNC

JN201330 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]]

[Text] The PFLP-GC has informed us that its Central Committee held a meeting to discuss the results of the Algiers dialogue. They decided that these results did not take into account the basic principle which has unanimous approval among Palestinian nationalists: namely, the closure of the Egyptian gate. Moreover, the Algiers interlocutors have not taken advantage of the opportunity to improve relations with Damascus as presented to them by the Syrian initiative. This proves that the general trend in Algiers continues to uphold the capitulatory settlements.

The PFLP-GC added that Yasir 'Arafat persists in stalling and procrastinating as methods to impose a fait accompli in the Palestinian arena. The PFLP-GC calls on the signatories to the Tripoli agreement to immediately halt the dialogue. Therefore, the PFLP-GC has decided not to participate either in the dialogue or in the PNC session. Moreover, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has decided to boycott the Algiers session and the Libyan Jamahiriyah will not participate at any level and will not send a delegation, contrary to other reports.

The PFLP-GC source added that Col al-Qadhdhafi has also decided to suspend the Tripoli document because it has received no response.

The Palestine Popular Struggle Front has declared its boycott of the Algiers meeting and considers the results of the dialogue insufficient to realize Palestinian unity. The Front added that its leader, Dr Samir Ghawshah, will leave Algiers within hours and return to Damascus.

We have also learned from the Fatah-Revolutionary Council that it has decided to boycott the PNC and held those who have refused to achieve the unity of the Palestinian ranks on serious bases over the past 10 days, responsible for the results that will follow.

As for Khalid al-Fahum, he told us a short while ago that no response was made to the efforts which have been exerted to open the Damascus gate, which is the main gate for the Palestinian revolution, and the Tripoli document had not been followed. He said no commitment was made on the need to close the Egyptian gate, and therefore, the Algiers session is illegitimate and is counter to the National Charter. Al-Fahum warned that the Algiers PNC will lead to further splits and divisions.

A Palestinian source here noted that Yasir 'Arafat has not yet personally confirmed the cancellation of the Amman agreement, which means that 'Arafat still has reservations over the Fatah Central Committee decision to cancel the agreement.

Two other Palestinian factions will not participate in the Algiers meeting. They are the Fatah Uprising [Dissident] Movement and the Al-Sa'iqah organization [the Popular Liberation War Vanguards]. These organizations, in addition to the PFLP-GC, had refused to hold dialogue with the Palestinian right.

Communists' Statement

JN201832 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Palestinian Communist Party-Provisional Command [Al-hizb al-shuyu'i al-filastini al-qiyadah al-mu'aqqatah] today issued a statement denouncing the stalling and procrastination tactics and asserting its nonparticipation in the Algiers PNC session because relations with Egypt are continuing and the abrogation of the Amman agreement was only a formality.

The Fatah Uprising Movement issued a statement just now saying that the PNC belongs to Yasir 'Arafat and does not represent the PLO. It said the PNC session is a followup to the Amman secessionist session and that the identity of the Algiers PNC is now very clear in view of the participation of an Egyptian delegation in it. The movement denounced the Palestinian organizations that joined 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Sudan's Al-Banna Leads Delegation to PNC Session

JN201154 Khartoum SUNA in English 1027 GMT
20 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers April 20 (SUNA) — Deputy Chairman of the State Council Irdis al-Banna who is leading popular and official delegation to the meetings of the Palestinian National Council said Sudan's participation in the said meeting emanates from its active role in the Arab issues. Al-Banna who arrived here yesterday reaffirmed that Sudan will exert efforts to reconcile the Palestinian factions.

The deputy chairman of State Council added that he will hold talks with Algerian officials on promoting bilateral relations. On the other hand, the Sudanese popular delegation has issued a communique urging the Palestinian factions to work for unity in order to achieve the Palestinian revolution goals.

The communique hailed the Palestinian people's struggle in the Lebanese camps and the occupied Arab land. [Words indistinct] persons representing the Sudanese political parties and trade unions are taking part in the meetings of the Palestinian National Council.

'Arafat Receives Soviet, Iraqi Delegations

JN202002 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1815 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] last night in Algiers received a delegation from the CPSU Central Committee led by the Soviet ambassador in Algiers. They reviewed current developments and the positive results achieved by the leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions during their national comprehensive dialogue in preparation for the 18th PNC session.

Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday morning in Algiers received the Iraqi delegation to the PNC session led by Brother Sa'dun

Shakir, Iraqi RCC member and interior minister. The Iraqi delegation conveyed to Brother Abu 'Ammar the greetings of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and voiced Iraq's firm stand in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. They also wished for a successful 18th PNC session.

Brother Abu 'Ammar yesterday afternoon received the Indian ambassador in Algiers who handed him a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The message affirmed India's firm support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

Al-Bid Meets With 'Arafat in Algiers

EA210248 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, had a meeting at his Algiers residence this afternoon with Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces. In a spirit of brotherhood and common destiny, they discussed ways of reinforcing the warm militant relations between the Yemeni and the Palestinian revolutions and deepening the brotherly relations between the Yemeni and the Palestinian peoples. They also reviewed developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas and the efforts being made to convene the unificatory session of the PNC.

The brother secretary general stressed the party's view concentrating on the main contradictions rather than side issues was the way to draw the right conclusions about what had taken place in the Palestinian revolution through the different phases, and so achieve the full legitimate aims of the Palestinian people. He said that the situation in the Arab arena — particularly after the signing of the disgraceful Camp David agreement, the Zionist invasion of South Lebanon, the assault against the Palestinian presence in the camps war, the continuing resort to capitulatory schemes and the individualistic solutions -- demands vigilance and immediate confrontation.

This is because all that is taking place is targeted at the cause of the Arab peoples, and particularly of the Palestinian Arabs. He also stressed that it was not possible to stand against these imperialist and Zionist schemes without the unity and reinforcement of the internal front of the Palestinian revolutionary factions.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat praised the efforts of the YSP, proceeding from its correct policy and its national class perspective, to bring closer the views of the factions of the Palestinian revolution and its role in participating in the Palestinian dialogues which preceded the holding of the 18th unificatory session of the PNC.

Present at the meeting on the Yemeni side were Brother Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Political Bureau member and foreign minister, and members of the delegations accompanying the brother secretary general. Present on the Palestinian side was Brother 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Revolutionary Council of the Fatah Movement.

Envoy Presents Mubarak Message to 'Arafat

NC202132 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 20 Apr (MENA) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has received a message from President Husni Mubarak wherein he expressed his support for the PLO's legitimate leadership and the Palestinian people's rightful struggle.

Taha al-Farnawani, head of the Egyptian delegation to the PNC meetings, presented President Muberak's message to Yasir 'Arafat. In a statement made here this evening, Al-Farnawani said that he had held talks with the PLO Executive Committee members, as well as the representatives of various Palestinian factions participating in the PNC's current session. He added that he had explained Egypt's views on and ceaseless support for the fateful and pan-Arab issue of the Palestinian cause.

Al-Farnawani went on to say that Egypt does not accept any differences between the Palestinian and Egyptian leaderships. Egypt, he noted, does not interfere in the independent Palestinian decision, and, therefore, Egypt is proud of its dignity and sacrifice for the sake of the Palestinian issue. Egypt will not allow anyone to undermine Egypt's relations with the PLO, nor will it allow those who are slaughtering the children and elderly in the camps to disrupt them.

Al-Farnawani pointed out that, during his meetings with the Palestinian leaders, he sensed that they understood Egypt's value, weight, and role completely. He affirmed to them that the emergence of one-upmanship as a result of pressures on certain factions would not unite these factions, but rather would further the Arab division and differences.

Responding to a question about the PLO decision to abrogate the Amman agreement, Al-Farnawani said that Egypt considered this agreement as a tool for implementing an Arab move. However, despite the abrogation of the agreement, he sensed that the Palestinians actually agree on the importance of the Palestinian-Jordanian relations. He said that the PNC's successive sessions have reiterated the cohesion between the two peoples and have defined the confederation as a basis for relations between Jordan and the Palestinian state.

Continuing, Al-Farnawani said that the proposal for forming a joint Arab delegation has been relatively accepted by the Palestinian circles and it could motivate a unified Arab stand. He expressed the hope that the Arab leaders would unify efforts with Egypt for the sake of convening the international peace conference and that Egypt was prepared to play any role in support of this move.

Al-Farnawani welcomed the proposal submitted by the Sudanese delegation to the PNC for holding an Arab meeting in Khartoum in a bid to unify the ranks.

Bendjedid Receives 'Arafat-led Delegation
JN202007 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received in Algiers yesterday a delegation of the Palestinian leadership led by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. They reviewed the positive results achieved by the leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions during the comprehensive national dialogue aimed at making the 18th PNC session which opened in Algiers today a success.

The Algerian president highly praised the results of the dialogue and affirmed the stand of the Algerian party, people, and president in ensuring the success of the PNC and in supporting the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative.

Iraqi Interior Minister Meets PFLP's Habash
LD210928 Kuwait KUNA in English 0819 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 21 (KUNA) — Chief Iraqi delegate to meetings of the Palestine National Council here and Interor Minister Sa'dun Shakir last night met with Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine George Habash in the first such meeting in several years. PFLP sources told KUNA that the meeting was "satisfactory" but did not give any details on content of discussions.

The meeting is the first at such a high level between the two parties, after the front's office in Baghdad was closed seven years ago following its declared reservations toward the Iraq-Iran war. The PFLP, however, later amended its stance and condemned Iran's continued warring against Iraq.

'Text' of Amman Agreement Abrogation Cited
JN210730 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 87 pp 1, 3

[By Lamis K. Andoni and Badr 'Abd al-Haq in Algiers]

[Text] The Palestine National Council (PNC) opened its 18th session here on Monday, marking the end of a bitter almost-four-year-old dispute between the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and two major factions of the PLO.

The PNC was convened after the PLO Executive Committee announced that it was abrogating the Feb. 11, 1985, Jordan-PLO agreement.

The PNC session was opened with a keynote address by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat who called for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. All PLO factions "now stand together, united until the final liberation of Palestine," Mr. 'Arafat told the audience at the opening session which included two of his hitherto opponents — George Habash who leads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), both of whom boycotted the 17th session of the PNC, held in Amman in 1984.

The return of Dr. Habash and Mr. Hawatimah to the PNC was seen as a personal triumph for Mr. 'Arafat, who, in his 20- minute address, said: "We will maintain our armed struggle against Israel, not because we seek war, but because we want peace; a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the Palestinian right to self-determination and to an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Mr. 'Arafat endorsed the proposal for an international conference under United Nations auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as all other "interested parties," including the PLO on an equal footing with all other parties.

The PLO chairman paid special thanks to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for their endeavours in the drive for PLO reunification that culminated in Monday's PNC meeting.

Mr. Benjedid attended the opening session of the PNC, but Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who was expected to attend, was not present. Reports said "security reasons" were behind the Libyan leader's absence.

Mr. 'Arafat received a standing ovation when he entered the conference hall hand-in-hand with Mr. Benjedid.

Mr. 'Arafat greeted "all the friends of the Palestinian revolution, led by the Soviet Union," and renewed an appeal to Iran and Iraq to end their six-and-half-year-old war and "turn their guns against Israel for the Liberation of Palestine."

Six factions of the PLO — Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP, the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) and the Palestinian Communist Party — attended the meeting. The Abu Nidal group, which made a last-minute bid to attend, was not represented in the gathering.

A statement issued by the group said it had decided to boycott the meeting because "of the failure of all efforts to curb the unlimited prerogatives" of the PLO chairman, but sources close to the PLO leadership said other factions agreed in pre-conference negotiations not to allow the renegade faction, which has a long history of extremist attacks in the Middle East and elsewhere, to attend the meeting.

In a press conference earlier, Dr. Habash also announced the dismantling of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF), which grouped the PFLP, the Palestinian Communist Party, Al-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-General Command, the Popular Struggle Front and dissidents in Fatah.

"The Palestine National Salvation Front was formed on Feb. 25, 1985, 14 days after the signing of the Amman (Jordan-plo) accord," Dr. Habash said. "The accord was cancelled yesterday and the PNSF was dismantled," he said.

In a statement issued on Monday, the PLO Executive Committee said it had decided to abrogate the Feb. 11 accord with Jordan

and that it would seek a new framework for relations with Jordan, and other Arab countries in the joint struggle to liberate the occupied territories.

Following is the text of the committee statement:

The PLO and the Jordanian Government on Feb. 11, 1985, signed an agreement for joint efforts to achieve the common aspirations of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples in accordance with Arab and Islamic resolutions contained in the 1982 Fes Arab summit resolution and (this agreement) came after the work of the seven-member Arab committee (entrusted by the Fes summit) came to an end as a mechanism to implement (the Fes resolutions) and (the Feb. 11 agreement) was aimed at restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people through Arab and international efforts. The agreement was based on general resolutions made by the Palestine National Council (PNC) and in particular decisions taken by the 16th and 17th sessions of the council which emphasised the distinguished brotherly relations between the two peoples...and which called for setting up future relations between the two states (Jordan and Palestine) on the basis of confederal ties and coordinated political efforts to confront all unilateral solutions and to foil the "alternate homeland" theory. During the joint (Jordan-PLO) march, disputes emerged in explaining and understanding some of the agreement's concepts and their implementation. What added more (to the disputes) were pressures exerted by the United States and other parties, eventually leading Jordan to suspend political coordination with the PLO and take certain other measures which effectively froze the agreement and created an imbalance in the (Jordan-PLO) relationship.

The Executive Committee of the PLO, from its keenness on maintaining the proper means to implement PNC resolutions which particularly tackled the brotherly relations between Jordanians and Palestinians, in light of its practical experiences, (find that) the agreement has become a stumbling block in further developing these relations since the accord has no physical existence and decide to declare the agreement as null and void.

At the same time the PLO Executive Committee, in the context of its constant policy, will seek to find a new framework for joint efforts with Jordan and other Arab countries to achieve the goals of the joint struggle within the context of a united Arab stand and Arab solidarity to liberate the occupied Arab and Palestinian land and to build Arab unity taking into consideration Arab summit resolutions endorsing the (proposal) for an international conference to be attended by the Soviet Union, the United States and other members of the United Nations Security Council and all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the PLO on an equal footing with all other parties under U.N. auspices and supervision.

PNC Speaker Al-Sayih Opens Council Session

LD210126 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Opening speech at PNC session by Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sayih in Algiers on 20 April — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency, the great fighter President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party, may God protect him. [applause] [passage omitted]

I thank the great fighter Chadli Bendjedid for his initiative — for his bold and generous gesture and his agreement to play host to our council in the great land of Algeria; Algeria, which is glorious with its martyrs and fighters and leaders who set the highest example to others, at various times, of steadfastness and firmness and sacrifice, until they realized their hopes and ours in expelling the invaders and the colonialists to enjoy the independence of their homeland and their victories. They have achieved all this through their unity and solidarity.

We still recall and voice our gratitude for the precious advice from his excellency the president at the 16th session, which was held in beloved Algeria — counsel drawn from (?Algerian) experience — namely to stand by independent Palestinian decisionmaking. [applause] We have acted on this advice and have proceeded in our actions on the basis of the idea of refraining from interfering in the affairs of others, even if they are beloved brothers, and that we should not allow others to interfere in our affairs no matter how high our opinion of those brothers may be.

But this does not mean we should solve the issue unilaterally, as there are two sides to it. It has our own Palestinian side, which concerns our domestic affairs, and a pan-Arab side, which concerns the question of solving the issue. As no Arab regime is allowed to solve the issue alone, the PLO, too, must not settle the problem unilaterally. However, any solution to the issue should not be accepted unless approved by the PLO, as the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people, wherever they may be. [applause]

And this highlights the importance of Palestinian unity, particularly in the delicate and crucial circumstances in which opinions and possibilities are bandied about here and there, and none of which have been seeking the interests of the Palestinian people, or the interests of their issue or their national rights — like those enjoyed by the rest of the nations of the world — that is, the right to self-determination and to set up our an independent state on the soil of the homeland, Palestine, and its capital, liberated Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

We have high regard for the states of the socialist community headed by the Soviet Union [applause] for their support for Arab rights in international forums and on various occasions. We ask them to adopt more and more stands of moral and material support until the occupation of Palestinian soil and Lebanon, and all occupied Arab soil, disappears, its traces are obliterated, and the Palestinian people enjoy full rights.

We condemn the attitude of the United States in its open

alignment with racist Zionism, which is embodied by the state of Israel and its support for Israel's wrongdoing, in all (?international) military and economic fields. We place the blame for the continued aggression against the Palestinian people and the deprivation of their rights on the United States.

As for the current Arab and international situation, we support the idea of an effective international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council as well as the states that are party to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The goal is for our revolution and cause to maintain its voice and recognition so that others do not decide for us in our absence. This is despite the fact that there is no evidence today of an earnest U.S. or Israeli attitude toward arriving at a peaceful solution and comprehensive peace that restores rights. All the ideas in circulation today center around Camp David or something that resembles it in content and aim. Such a course is completely rejected, whatever (?form) it might take or whatever name it is given. [applause]

Our conviction is that the matter, in the final analysis, depends on the extent of the earnestness of the fraternal Arab states in adopting a crucial stand that recovers Palestine, Jerusalem, the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the other holy shrines, and all occupied Arab territories, and supports the revolution and the Palestinians in their struggle and holy war, whether armed or unarmed. [passage omitted]

On the Iraq-Iran war: While we are in the grip of successive events in Palestine and the surrounding areas [words indistinct], we cannot (?forget) a great (?calamity) which affects our cause and our holy shrines [words indistinct]. It is the Iraq-Iran war, which has entered its 7th year and is devouring everything dry or green [words indistinct]. Innocent lives are being lost and property, possessions, and (?civilizations) are being destroyed. It represents a spreading danger about which one must not remain silent [words indistinct] a matter that makes it imperative for us to work earnestly and continuously for (?an end) to the war.

We are aware of the fact that imperialism, colonialism, and Zionism are trying to expand its scope and destroy the resources and capacities of the two sides so that the Arabs and Muslims will reach a point where they cannot help or support the liberation of Jerusalem and its holy shrines or save Palestine or work for its freedom. In the end the hope is that they will have no choice but to surrender to the Zionist enemy and those in its orbit.

As long as fraternal Iraq, as its president [applause] Saddam Husayn has said, is ready to accept any mediation or arbitration, be it Islamic or international, the situation calls for action to persuade the Iranians to answer the voice of reason and Islam, and start talks so the war will stop. Then each would return to his borders as they were before the aggression. Afterward, a dialogue can take place under the auspices of the United Nations, the ICO Secretariat General, or in any other form through which agreement may be reached. The continuation of the war with its unjustified destruction cannot be condoned by Islam or a sound mind. It also contravenes the need to protect human rights.

Anyone who supplies Iran with any weapons should stop. Therefore, an Arab summit conference should be convened to tackle this matter and to take whatever action is deemed imperative by brotherhood and Arab solidarity. A summit should tackle all problems, bypassing differences in the Arab world and surmounting everything in the way of a solution.

I salute and thank the Algerian people. At the end of my speech, I must laud the attitude of the entire fraternal Algerian people for their hospitality and welcome, as well as for what they had to endure to get our council to open. All this is considered a practical example of the treatment of revolutionaries by revolutionaries and brothers by brothers. [applause]

I extend thanks and greetings to very individual or (?leader) of a group and (?to every) Algerian house. You should be proud of the noble stand adopted by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. [applause]

Finally, I recite God's words and say: Work soon and God will observe your work as will His apostle and the believers; soon you will be brought back to the knower of what is hidden and what is open. Then He will show you the truth of all that you did.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

'Arafat Addresses Session

LD202034 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1731 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the PNC session in Algiers on 20 April — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid; brother leaders of the fraternal and friendly delegations; brother his excellency the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization; brother his excllency the secretary general of the Arab League; brother his excellency the secretary general of the Yemeni Democratic Party; brothers and comrades along my path — secretaries general of our Palestinian organization [applause]; my brothers the guests of our conference; brothers and friends; brothers members of our PNC:

In the name of Palestine, in the name of the first Qiblah and the third holy place, in the name of the cradle of Christ and the place from which the prophet Muhammad — God's prayers and peace be upon him — made his flight to heaven; we open the session of our National Council — the session of national unity [applause]; the session of the steadfastness of the Palestinian refugee camps [applause] — in the name of these camps we open this session. We open this session in the name of of our steadfast people in our occupied land [applause], in the face of Zionist occupation and terrorism, to say to the whole world that this Palestinian land will remain Arab, Arab. [applause]

O my brother president, o revolutionary, o mujahid, always when the paths are blocked and the disasters become mightier in front of the Palestinian march, we see you in front of us with your people, the people of the 1.5 million martyrs [applause]; we see you in front of us exactly as 'Umar said to Sariyah when he faced a predicament. He said to him: O Sariyah, the mountain, the mountain. I said to my brothers: Chadli Bendjedid, Algeria,

Algeria, Algeria. [applause]

Yes, Algeria has always embraced the PNC, in the difficult and fateful times through which the Palestinian revolution is passing. Thank you, my brother the president, thank you and thank your people, thank you from the depth of the depths of our occupied land, from Jerusalem, the first of the Qiblahs and the third of the holy mosques, to the revolutionaries in Algeria, heroic Algeria, from the revolutionaries to the revolutionaries of Algeria, from the free men of Palestine to the free men of Algeria. It is a pledge, a pledge, a pledge, the pledge of revolutionaries to revolutionaries, and the pledge of free men to free men, that we will continue the march, we will continue along the road, the road of struggle, the road of jihad, as one man, as one man through this unity, Palestinian national unity, the Palestinian national unity; [applause] a pledge that we will proceed with this Palestinian national unity which you took care of until our PNC convened.

Thank you my brother president; thanks to you from all the revolutionaries, from the people and the strugglers of Palestine. Thanks also to my brother president, [as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi [applause] who brought great influence to bear to make this Palestinian dialogue successful. Thanks also to the friends and to the brothers in our Arab nation, and to all our friends who stood by us and struggled with us for the sake of convening our National Council, led by our great friend the Soviet Union, led by our comrade and friend Gorbachev. [applause] Yes, my brothers; what can I give this woman who is besieged in Al-Rashidiyah, on whom Israeli guns and bombs opened up yesterday? What can I say to her except that the Palestinian national unity is your path toward salvation — and that it is the path leading to Palestine, so that our flag, the flag of the Palestinian revolution, the flag of the Arab nation, can be hoisted over the walls of Jerusalem and over the minarets of Jerusalem and over the churches of Jerusalem. What can I say to those students at the [name indistinct] university in Gaza, at Najah University in Nabulus, at Bir Zayt, at Hebron University, at Jerusalem University, at Bethlehem University, who, together with all their people — workers, and farmers, men, women, and children — are confronting the imperialist Zionist attack — confronting the Israelis' tanks with their bare hands? What can I say to them except the pledge, the pledge is the pledge — the Palestinian rifle shall not be laid down until we reach Palestine — all Palestine. [applause]

Yes brothers, yes brothers. In these difficult Arab times — and I do not want to say bad Arab times, because it cannot be bad while there are free men and noblemen in this Arab nation — therefore, in these difficult Arab times, when they are trying to subdue the will of this nation and its free men, this nation shall not bow, as this nation decided to write its history with letters of light and fire, letters of blood, for history, that this land, the whole Arab land is indivisible, and that its will is one and indivisible, and that if one organ suffers, the rest of the body collapses with fever and sleeplessness.

O brothers, o brothers. In these difficult Arab times, we are all called upon to have the heart of one man. It is by no means a coincidence that this air raid on sister Libya took place, an act of belittling the Arab nation. It would not have taken place had this Arab nation not been going through these difficult times. These Israeli aircraft, with the assistance of the American 6th Fleet, would not have strafed the headquarters of the PLO and Hamman al-Shatt in order to deal a blow to Tunisia, the Tunisia of Habib Bourguiba which embraced the Palestinian revolution [applause]; this would not have happened had it not been for the Arab disunity. This could not have happened. And here is the Iraqi army fighting for 7 years in defense of the eastern flank of the Arab nation. This would not have happened had there not been a problem facing the Arab nation. [applause]

Therefore, from my position here, as my brother President Chadli Bendjedid said, I appeal to the brothers in Iran to agree to halt this Iraqi-Iranian war. Seven years is enough, as our brothers in Algeria have said. Enough, enough of this war, enough of this war, enough of this war; direct the rifles, all the rifles, at Palestine, the first of the two Qiblahs, and the third of the holy mosques, to liberate it, to extract it, to free it from the claws of Zionism and colonialism. I say this, dear brothers, I say this at these difficult times, but we realize that despite the [word indistinct], the difficulty of the circumstances which we will experience as an Arab nation and as a Palestinian revolution, we shall maintain contact with this Israeli enemy, we shall maintain fighting contact with this Israeli enemy until we record the victory of our revolution. This does not mean, under any circumstance, that we are fighting for the sake of fighting; we are fighting for the achievement of a just and comprehensive solution in our region, a just solution based on the firm legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including its right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of its independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [applause] I say this dear brothers.

Therefore, we support the international conference which all international groups have called for; it was approved at the nonaligned conference in Harare, and at the Islamic summit conference in Kuwait. It was approved at the UN General Assembly. The initiative to convene this conference was made during the visit of President Mitterrand to Comrade Gorbachev — when they issued the first initiative in connection with the preparatory committee of this international conference. Then there is a friendly attitude from friendly China, which stands firmly and strongly with the Palestinian people. [applause] Also and for the first time the European Community — the Common Market — issued a resolution supporting an international conference. On what basis? On the basis of the Venice Declaration, which speaks of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and to PLO participation. Hence the Arab resolution to endorse the Arab summit conference resolution approving the convening of the international conference with the attendance and participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all the sides to the dispute in the region, including the PLO, on an equal footing. Therefore, we do not fight for the sake of fighting, but for the sake of just peace and a Palestinian state whose flag flutters over Palestine — over Jerusalem — for the sake of just and permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region.

Brothers, my Brother President Chadli Bendjedid. Once again, in the name of all the suffering and in the name of all tortures endured by our people, I say to you: Thanks, thanks, and thanks. And I would like to say to our council in the name of my

brothers — the secretaries general of the Palestinian revolution who have waged a long and difficult struggle for the sake of convening this, our PNC — I say to them and in their name to this struggling people in our occupied territories — to this struggling and steadfast people in the Palestinian camps — I say to them that we are together and side by side until we liberate Jerusalem, and until we liberate Palestine. I say to them that our time is coming, the time is near. It is [words indistinct] and we are truthful. Let them enter the mosque, as they did for the first time, and say God is great. God bought [as heard] from the believers themselves because paradise belongs to them. They fight for the sake of God. Thus they kill and get killed, a pledge which entails a right, in the Torah, the Bible and the Koran, for the one who fulfil's his pledge to God. Rejoice, rejoice in your pledge and this is the great accomplishment. God spoke the truth, and it is a revolution until victory, until victory, until victory.

YSP's Al-Bid Speaks

LD202023 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Speech by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, at the PNC session in Algiers on 20 April — recorded]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, Mr President, PNC members, guests. We are pleased to participate in the PNC proceedings and its session of national unity, the session of the steadfastness of the camps and masses of the occupied homeland which we consider a distinguished point in the history of your contemporary struggle. Please allow us to convey to you the greetings of the PDRY people and of your brothers in the Yemeni Socialist Party, its leadership and [word indistinct]. We reaffirm to you our full support for your aims which are targeted at uniting your forces, at consolidating and developing your just struggle against imperialism and Zionism and against capitulatory deals. We also support your goals of a return of all your legitimate rights, a return to your homeland, self-determination, and the establishment of your national independent state on Palestinian national soil under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Here we would like to express our thanks and gratitude for the sincere efforts exerted by the Algerian brothers for the successful convocation of this council session and for the restoration of PLO unity.

Brothers and sisters, we consider Palestinian national unity as the real basis of your struggle for the restoration of your rights; it is a determining factor of strength which decides all forthcoming revolutions in the course of your struggle. I am sure that by this unity you can achieve the unachievable, overcoming destitution and disunity.

Your offspring are in the same position. Your enemies are limited to Zionism and to its strategic ally, the United States and to the capitulatory plots. Your brothers and friends will be willing to push with all their abilities, on your side, in support of your national unity and of the closing of your ranks. Therefore, we believe that the convening of your council, with this large, popular representation, is a great success for you, and at the same time for us, who are struggling hand in hand against our common enemy.

The council will be the right forum to bolster the PLO and will have a positive reflection at the Palestinian and Arab levels. We are confident that the PLO, alongside its unity with the Palestinian gun, the Palestinian decision, and the Palestinian [word indistinct] will be an important factor in uniting the Arab rank in order to ward off the violent imperialist-Zionist onslaught, and put an end to the continuing Israeli aggression against Arab people, recapture all Arab territories which Israel occupied in 1967, and recapture all the usurped rights of our Palestinian people.

Stemming from this, brothers and sisters, we are fully aware that the one who paid a high price for the sake of freedom and independence understands the meaning and value of unity. We are aware that without this unity it is impossible to achieve freedom. We have before us vivid examples of Arab struggle for liberation in Algeria and in the PDRY, which emphasize that national unity is the only path to national emancipation and victory.

And from this starting point, the honest efforts of Algeria, Libya, Democratic Yemen for the unity of the PLO are well known worldwide. The efforts of the friends of our Arab peoples, especially the socialist countries, most important of which is the friendly Soviet Union, which constantly stands by our Arab people, and its solidarity with your struggle and with your people for the unity of the PLO is also well known all over the world.

Brothers and sisters, we believe that unity of the PLO comes before all other tasks, considering that the settlement of the Middle East problem cannot be attained without the major key — namely the Palestinian question and the right of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland, to self determination, the building of an independent Palestinian state over Palestinian national soil, and the recovering of all occupied Arab territories. We emphasize that the possibility of restoring Arab solidarity is closely linked with the unity of the PLO.

Kuwaiti Minister Gives Address

LD210409 Kuwait KUNA in English 1900 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, April 20 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi told the opening session of the Palestine National Council here Monday Palestinian unity is the groundwork for any serious action in support of the Palestinian question.

Addressing the session on behalf of his highness the amir of Kuwait, Al-'Usaymi said the PNC session acquires "historical significance" because it coincides with persistent threats aimed at the Palestinian question "which is the pivotal cause of Arabs everywhere."

He said he was confident that full awareness of the intricate Arab and international situation "would push all to do all in their power to consolidate the national Palestinian unity."

On behalf of his highness the amir, Al-'Usaymi conveyed to the

conferees "a salute of fraternity and solidarity from the amir, government and people of Kuwait and the sincerest wishes of success."

As Kuwait is current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Unity "we are certain that your Muslim brethren in all parts of the world share the same wishes with us and are looking forward to decisive and positive results of your congress," Al-'Usaymi added.

Stressing the need for Palestinian groups to restore unity, Al-'Usaymi noted that the lack of this unity for some time has compounded the suffering of the Palestinian people.

"The mere announcement of an agreement about holding this session has revived everybody's hopes," the Kuwaiti minister said.

These hopes, he added, were translated by Palestinians in occupied territories into escalated struggle against the "Zionist enemy."

Al-'Usaymi said Kuwait has received the letter of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat with "great interest and appreciation" in which the Palestinian leader echoed the genuine desire of all Palestinian groups to close ranks in the interest of the Palestinian question.

"We were especially heartened by the invitation which Kuwait has received to send a delegation to attend this congress," Al-'Usaymi said, adding that the move reflected the deeply rooted fraternal ties between the peoples of Palestine and Kuwait.

Chedli Klibi Gives Speech

LD210511 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Speech by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at the PNC session in Algiers on 20 April — live or recorded]

[Text] Brothers, the conflict you are waging is one that has been imposed on the whole nation in its struggle for freedom and pride. Thus, we must always affirm that the Palestinian cause is an Arab responsibility as much as it is a Palestinian matter. It is a conflict of our nation with Israel. It is a conflict between pan-Arabism and Zionist hegemony. Through this struggle, the people occupy the front positions in solidarity with their brothers in the confrontation backed by all sons of the Arab nation.

In light of this pan-Arab awareness of the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict comes the basic Arab responsibilities. At the forefront is the duty of serious participation in strengthening the Palestinian struggle to enhance the PLO's capability to wage its battle and to completely fulfill its mission in the Palestinian, Arab and international arena, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As for the second Arab responsibility, it is the duty of participation [words indistinct]. As for the third Arab responsibility, it necessitates the elimination of Arab disputes because they impede every joint Arab action for the cause, as well as all our just causes.

As you can see, brothers, the situation requires an Arab meeting at summit level as soon as possible. The success of your work in this council has great importance in paving the way for the meeting of the Arab leaders. In consideration of this, your council is called upon to lay down clear outlines toward the future backed by the unity of the Palestinian ranks. The council must also call for uniting all Arab efforts to strengthen the struggle of the Palestinian people for their established rights in the framework of a solution that guarantees regaining the occupied Arab territories, and safeguarding the nation's dignity and sovereignty over its territories and the independence of its destiny.

'Arafat Opens Palestine Fund Meeting in Algiers

JN202010 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has opened in Algiers a meeting of the board of directors of the Palestine National Fund with His Eminence PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and Dawud al-Ghusayn, chairman of the board of directors of the fund, attending. Our correspondent has learned that the fund's board of directors discussed the financial situation of the PLO and ways to increase its financial resources.

PDRY's Al-Bid Meets YAR Foreign Minister

EA210244 Aden ANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 20 Apr (ANA) — Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP, had a meeting at his Algiers residence this morning with Brother 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy premier, foreign minister and member of the Permanent Commission of the northern part of the homeland. They discussed the modalities of moves toward the unification of the two parts of the homeland in keeping with the aspirations of our Yemeni people for economic and social progress, and with the achievement of unity both in terms of land and people, and on sound democratic foundations.

The meeting was also attended by Comrade Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, Political Bureau member and Central Committee secretary, and Comrade Dr al-'Aziz al-Dali, Political Bureau member and foreign minister, together with other officials.

New Palestinian Group Threatens Italian Interests

NC201551 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Nicosia, April 20 (AFP) — A previously unknown group, the "Eagles for the Liberation of Palestine" threatened Monday to attack Italian interests worldwide if a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy was extradited to a destination "other than that of his choice."

In a message to a Western news agency here, an anonymous caller, who said he was linked to suicide commandos, said "Colonel Ghandurah" had been arrested in Rome on October 15, 1985

for allegedly travelling on a false passport.

He had been travelling from Tunis to Beirut "on behalf of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat", on a mission aimed at helping secure the release of Western and Soviet hostages held in Lebanon, the caller said.

He was released on July 10, 1986, after being acquitted of involvement in the October 7-9 hijacking of the Italian cruise liner the *Achille Lauro*, the caller added. He had been deprived of his passport and was threatened with extradition.

"The solution of the hostage crisis is linked to the case of Colonel Ghandurah," said the caller, claiming that the "colonel" had been instrumental, in September 1985, in the freeing of three Soviet diplomats kidnapped in Beirut.

Palestinian Fighters Ambush Israeli Patrol
JN201952 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Statement by a military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command — date and place not given]

[Text] Following instructions, the martyr 'Abd al- Fattah 'Isa Humud group from the Bayt al-Maqdis martyrs unit — Al-'Asifah Forces — penetrated the minefields and cut off the electronic security barrier erected by the Zionist occupation forces on the Palestinian-Lebanese border. Our group managed to ambush a Zionist military patrol near a Zionist settlement in northern Palestine. It used rockets and machine guns to clash with members of the Zionist patrol and managed to kill or wound several enemy soldiers, including a first lieutenant.

The clash also resulted in the martyrdom of the heroes of the group. They are Ahmad Majid 'Abdallah, Bilal Muhammad 'Abid 'Amir, and Ibrahim al-Musa Ayyub.

Glory and immortality to our righteous martyrs! Revolution until victory!

KUWAIT

Shaykh Sabah, Libyan Envoy Detail Talks

LD201451 Kuwait KUNA in English 1310 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, April 20 (KUNA) — Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad today received foreign minister of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [title as received], Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi in the presence of the accompanying delegation and the Libyan charge d'affaires here, Hassunah al-Shawish.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Sabah told reporters that the exchange tackled bilateral relations between Kuwait and the Jamahiriyah and developments in the Arab world. He indicated that the Libyan guest is carrying a message to h.h. the amir from Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, which would be delivered to his highness tomorrow by Al-Talhi.

On his part, the Libyan official said his talks with Shaykh Sabah dealt with several issues of mutual and Arab interest, adding he sensed, as usual, Kuwait's interest and sincerity towards anything related to Arab causes.

Asked on the Jamahiriyah's stance on meetings of Palestinian dialogue and the Palestine National Council's 18th session, opening today in Algiers, Al-Talhi reminded of Libya's clear stand, recalling that the efforts exerted by Col al-Qadhdhafi for Palestinian reunification and the meetings held recently in Tripoli had represented the basis for other preparatory meetings for the PNC session.'

The foreign minister renewed Libya's and the Libyan leader's keenness and support to realize Palestinian unity 'as the real guarantee for continuity of the Palestinian revolution.'

Shaykh Sabah hosted a luncheon today in honour of the Libyan official and accompanying delegation, who arrived here last night on a three-day visit to Kuwait.

Later, Shaykh Sabah received secretary general of the Arab Lawyers' Union, Faruq Abu Eissa who is taking part in the Union's 16th session, presently held in Kuwait.

OMAN

Singapore Minister To Sign Aviation Agreement

JN202041 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 18 Apr 87 p 2

[Excerpts] Singapore's Minister of Communications and Information and Second Minister of Defence, Dr Yeo Ning Hong, is on a four-day visit to Muscat heading a nine-man delegation. [passage omitted]

Dr Hong has come to Oman to sign a bilateral civil aviations agreement. The signing ceremony will take place at the Communications Ministry's headquarters at Darsayt today.

The Singaporean delegation includes the Director of Communications and Information, Peck Hock Thiam; the Deputy Director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority, N.G. Wee Hong, and the Assistant General Manager of the Telecommunications Authority, L.J.M. Toon. [names as published]

Singaporean Minister Departs

JN210858 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Muscat, April 20 (ONA) — Singaporean Minister of Transport and Information [title as received] Yeo Ning Hong left here today after a visit to Oman.

During the visit he held talks with a number of Omani officials on promoting bilateral cooperation in various fields.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Returns From Mideast Visits

EA170902 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, returned to Aden today at the end of his visits to Algeria, Libya, and Syria. During his tour, he delivered messages from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, to Brother Chadli Bendjedid, president of Algeria and secretary general of the FLN Party; Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution; and Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Republic.

In a statement to ANA, the brother foreign minister said he has replies for Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid from his brothers, the leaders of these Arab states. He expressed his great appreciation for the positive results achieved during his trip to the sisterly countries of Algeria, Libya, and Syria.

QATAR

Talks Held With Bahrain on Disputed Island

JN171051 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 15 Apr 87 p 1

[By Yusuf al-Khatir in Doha]

[Text] An informed source in Doha told *Al-Ittihad* that the talks held in Doha the day before yesterday between Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and Bahraini Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, the commander in chief of Bahrain's defense forces, dealt with certain ideas for a speedy solution to the differences between the two countries over Fasht al-Dibal and other disputed areas.

The source added that additional steps to resolve the dispute peacefully will be taken by the two sides over the next few days. The source noted that the talks were held in an atmosphere of optimism and understanding and the two parties stressed the

need to overcome the obstacles and strengthen relations between the two sister countries.

The source pointed out that the Qatari Government and people were satisfied with the Bahraini heir apparent's response to the invitation by his Qatari counterpart, as well as the good results of the talks. These were seen as a new step on the road to restoring familial Bahraini-Qatari ties to normal.

UAE

Petrovskiy Comments on Foreign Ministry Talks

JN201937 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1720 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Apr (WAM) — Official talks between the UAE side headed by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid and a Soviet delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy began here today. The discussions dealt with events in the Gulf region, efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, developments in the Middle East question, the work to convene an international peace conference, and ways of strengthening relations between the two countries.

Shaykh Hamdan said afterward that the 2-hour session was devoted to a review of the situation in the Gulf, the Arab world, and the world at large.

Speaking to WAM, Shaykh Hamdan added that the talks centered on three main issues: freedom of shipping in the Gulf, the Iraq-Iran war, and the possibilities of convening the international conference for Middle East peace.

Shaykh Hamdan said the two sides asserted the importance of freedom of navigation in the Gulf, which is an international responsibility, and the need to put an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war. He said all aspects of the Middle East question had been examined, and it was emphasized that there must be an international peace conference attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Shaykh Hamdan said that the discussion of bilateral relations covered ways of strengthening them, with emphasis on economic ties.

Shaykh Hamdan explained that the Soviet deputy foreign minister invited him to visit Moscow, that he accepted the invitation, and that a date for the trip will be set later.

In a statement following the talks, Petrovskiy said theywere conducted in a calm atmosphere. He noted that the two sides expressed their joint concern over the tension in the Gulf, adding that his country is eager to find solutions to the region's problems and an answer for the Middle East dispute. This will permit us to move from the phase of confrontation to the phase of talks. He also said his country is concerned about protecting and making navigation routes safe in the Gulf and through the Strait of Hormuz.

When asked about the proposals he is carrying during his tour of the region concerning the security of navigation in the Gulf and stopping the Iraq-Iran war, the Soviet official made it clear that the proposals came from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. They deal with holding a multilateral conference to provide protection in the Gulf and seek an end to the war. He said the first step is the important thing.

Petrovskiy pointed out that the question of an international conference for peace in the Middle East was the most important topic raised during the talks.

He said he was satisfied with the understanding he sensed between the two sides in terms of the impossibility of settling the Middle East problem unless the parties concerned make efforts to solve the Palestinian issue, as that is the crux of the Middle East dispute.

Petrovskiy emphasized that we must go from the phase of words to that of deeds. He noted that the time is right for efforts to hold the international conference. He said that UN resolutions, the nonaligned conference held in Harare recently, and the ICO summit resolutions all back an international conference.

Answering a question on whether he expects the conference to be held this year with Soviet participation, Petrovskiy ruled out the possibility of it being convened this year. He asserted that it may be held next year if work is done on this and comprehensive preparations are made.

He said 1988 should be considered the year of the international conference, noting that it may be held then.

Libyan Envoy on 2-Day Visit; To Deliver Message

JN181329 Doha QNA in Arabic 1238 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Apr (QNA) — Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in Libya, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Sanaa this afternoon on a 2-day visit to the UAE as part of a regional tour.

During his stay, the Libyan official will convey a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, from Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

Gives Message to President

JN190650 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0531 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, has received a verbal message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the current Arab situation. WAM said the message is part of the continuing process of consultation between the two leaders to achieve the Arab and Islamic nation's objectives of real solidarity.

The message was conveyed by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who is currently visiting the country, when he was received tonight by His Highness Shaykh Zayid.

The audience was also attended by Shaykh Rashid ibn Muhammad al-Mu'alla, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Umm al-Qaywayn; and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs.

Leaves Abu Dhabi for Kuwait

JN191755 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Apr (WAM) — Jadallah 'Azzuz al- Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left for Kuwait this evening after a 2-day visit to the UAE as part of a regional tour. During his stay, the Libyan official conveyed a verbal message from His Excellency Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, UAE president, on the current Arab sitaution. He was seen off at the airport by 'Ubayd Salim al-Zu'abi, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

YAR

Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

JN201808 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Traian Pop arrived in Sanaa today heading a delegation on a 4-day visit to our country. Speaking to SABA', he said his trip is in response to an invitation from Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry. Pop explained that the two countries will exchange views, with emphasis on bilateral relations and current international issues. He said Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu attaches great importance to the ties between the two friendly peoples and states.

The Romanian official said there are favorable conditions for the opening of new horizons for bilateral economic cooperation.

On hand to welcome him at the airport were the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the YAR charge d'affaires in Bucharest, the Romanian charge d'affaires in Sanaa, and a protocol officer from the Foreign Ministry.

Libyan Envoy Makes Statement Upon Departure

JN181923 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Eng Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, left Sanaa today after concluding a visit lasting several days.

During his stay, he delivered a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution, to his brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

In a predeparture statement to SABA', Brother al-Talhi expressed happiness at meeting brother leader Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and handing him a message from his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September revolution. He added that his visit to our country is in line with the firm and brotherly relations existing between the two fraternal states.

He voiced his pleasure at touring Ma'rib Governorate and at seeing the great Ma'rib Dam. He said this dam will benefit the governorate in particular and the YAR's development in general. Concluding his remarks, he expressed gratitude for the hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their trip.

He was seen off by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, Brother Muhammad 'Umar Sawlah, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa; and by a representative of the protocol department.

Communications Minister Leaves for Libya

JN191358 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Eng Ahmad al-Ansi, minister of communications and transportation and Standing Committee member, left for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah this morning to attend the 20th meeting of the General Assembly of Arabsat.

In a statement to SABA', the brother minister said participants in the session will discuss the Assembly's general budget for last year and study projects for a second generation of satellites. They will also review the progress of the organization's work in the past period.

Sudanese Delegation Concludes 4-Day Visit

Departs Cairo

NC181555 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] A Sudanese delegation that included 'Abdallah al-Hasan, member of the Sudanese State Council, and Fawzi Fadil, chief of staff of the Sudanese Armed Forces, left Cairo today at the conclusion of a 4-day visit. Dr 'Isamt 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, saw them off.

Military 'Support' Promised

NC201136 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (MENA) — Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah, a member of the Sudanese State Council, has said that Egypt has agreed to provide support for the Sudanese Armed Forces at Khartoum's request.

In a statement today, the Sudanese official said that President Mubarak told him: Egypt does not wish to interfere in Sudan's internal affairs, but it hopes Sudan will be cautious, as anything affecting Sudan's security will also affect Egypt's security.

The Sudanese State Council member, who returned to Khartoum after ending a visit to Cairo 2 days ago, noted that agreement was reached on establishing an Egyptian-Sudanese joint committee to study bilateral cooperation in agriculture and livestock production.

The Sudanese official said [Egyptian Prime Minister] Dr 'Atif Sidqi will visit Sudan when this committee completes its study and that President Husni Mubarak had briefed him on the outcome of Egyptian-Ethiopian talks held during the Ethiopian president's visit to Cairo.

The Sudanese State Council member has given a report to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the State Council on the results of his trip to Cairo.

Trade Protocol With USSR Scheduled for September

JN201512 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Apr 87 p 6

[By Faruq 'Abd al-Mun'im]

[Excerpt] Egypt and the USSR have agreed to sign a trade cooperation protocol in September, according to Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade. In a statement to *Al-Akhbar*, the minister said Soviet economic experts are to attend the signing ceremonies of the 3-year accord on commodity exchanges in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Columnist Rejects 'Fictional' Debts to USSR

JN191451 Cairo AL-JUMHIRIYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 87 p 5

[From the "Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Excerpt][Passage omitted] Debts owed to the USSR are fictional and were forced on Egypt when the Soviets had a firm grip on our country: We did not discuss prices or quality. We offered the Soviet Union generous services in the name of Egyptian-Soviet friendship. Despite the gross manipulation of these debts, Egypt is about to recogize them. This adds up to new burdens for the average Egyptian. It means taking losses twice: Once when we worked on the Soviet Union's behalf in the Arab and African arenas and again when we repay the debts without claiming the rights due to us with the Soviets. We will continue to pay without knowing who is responible for this.

It is an extremely sensitive and delicate matter. We should consider revising our debts to the Soviets in light of the free services we gave them. We should not be fooled by debt rescheduling or interest exemptions. After all, they were invalid to begin with and, as such, their consequences are invalid as well.

Reports on New Missiles for Iraq Denied

JN170908 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 15 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo — A military source has affirmed that Egypt has not supplied Iraq with any new weapons recently and that Iraq has the arms it needs to confront Iranian's latest offensive.

The Egyptian military source denied reports that Egypt has provided Iraq with 'Ayn al-Saqr surface-to-air missiles. The source added that the Egyptian arms industries have not yet started mass production of this type of missile and that production tests for the weapon are still in progress.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves for Algiers

NC190805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA) — A Foreign Ministry delegation led by Ambassador Taha al-Farnawani, head of the Palestine Department, left Cairo for Algiers this morning to attend the PNC meetings scheduled to begin there on Monday. The group also includes Ambassador Salah Zaki and Mr Muhammad Wahid al-Dali, chairman of the Consultative Council's Arab Affairs Committee.

Al-Farnawani said the purpose of the Egyptian delegation's attendance at the PNC meetings is to emphasize Egypt's support for the Palestinian cause. The group will also highlight the importance of unifying the Palestinian revolution factions. This, he stated, would contribute to the achievement of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including that of self-determination.

He added that the delegation will meet with Palestinian leaders to discuss developments in their cause and efforts being made to find a just solution.

Deputy Foreign Minister Holds Talks in Turkey

For coverage of the visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Wafa 'Hijazi to Turkey, see the Turkey section of the 21 April Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

AL-AKHBAR Opposes Abrogation of Amman Accord

JN191728 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Apr 87 p 5

[Editorial: "Regardless of Motives We Reject the Abrogation of the Amman Accord"]

[Text] Whatever motives or reasons prompted the PLO to abrogate the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement signed in February 1985 concerning political coordination between the PLO and Jordan to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, we do not support this step. Egypt still believes that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination is a vital and fundamental factor for achieving peace in the Middle East.

We know that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat must have been exposed to great pressure to abrogate the agreement because he has become tired and fed up with the continuing differences and dissension in PLO ranks. It seems that following a lengthy meeting with PFLP Secretary General George Habash in Algiers, 'Arafat realized that the only solution was to abrogate the accord. However, we would have preferred not to see this agreement annulled for the sake of a reconciliation which does not serve the interests of the Palestinians as much as it seeks to satisfy the Syrian regime which controls certain Palestinian factions.

Perhaps the first negative results from the abrogation of this agreement will be the impeding of diplomatic efforts currently being made by King Husayn of Jordan to convince the European states of the need to hold an international peace conference attended by the PLO. The abrogation of this agreement, which stipulates the formation of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to participate in possible negotiations with Israel within the framework of an international conference and in accordance with the principle of "land for peace," will simply mean the reconsideration of the basis of the political moves currently being carried out by King Husayn to reach a negotiated settlement in the Middle East. For several reasons, Jordan is undoubtedly the only party qualified to participate with the Palestinians in a joint delegation.

The proof of what we say, that the decision to abrogate the Amman agreement was made under pressure from some leaders who have interests with other regimes, are the statements by Salah Khalaf, the PLO's number two man, in which he spoke of an alternative Arab agreement to include five states. Thus, the PLO wants to work for peace. Therefore, what is the difference between a bilateral or a 5-party agreement as long as the objective is a negotiated settlement?

Our rejection of the abrogation of the agreement stems from a firm and principled belief that every possible effort must be made to solve the Palestinian problem. The Palestinians are waiting for such a settlement, as they are suffering from the calamities of the Israeli occupation and the misery of Syrian-Shi'ite occupation in Lebanon's refugee camps. We still hope the Palestinians will come up with some concrete results following the PNC session. Otherwise, they will lose everything for nothing. As for those who called for severing relations between the PLO and Egypt, we know who manipulates them. We realize there are men in the PLO who can answer them. We will not stoop so low as to do so ourselves.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 2,647

JN201640 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,647 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces have continued their courageous fighting, using their combat operations to emphasize their overwhelming superiority over our country's enemies, the racist and covetous Zionist Iranian rulers. Our Armed Forces are determined to defeat this tyrannical clique as a prelude to final victory, God willing.

The following is a roundup of our combat activities for last night and today:

1. The planes of our gigantic Air Force raided enemy positions and troop concentrations in the operational sectors, inflicting additional losses on the enemy in 35 sorties. Our aircraft returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Our bold Army helicopter gunships staged successful raids on enemy units today, inflicting losses in men, materiel, and hardware on the aggressors, and destroying a number of infantry positions in 101 combat missions. Our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. A courageous force composed of an infantry platoon attacked enemy positions opposite one of our units in the II Army Corps central sector. It destroyed a number of infantry positions and a machine gun nest, and killed or wounded some enemy soldiers. The force returned safely to base.

4. With effective firepower, our units in the VII Army Corps sector managed to inflict further losses on the enemy. They destroyed five infantry positions and a mortar emplacement and killed three enemy soldiers.

5. Our triumphant forces in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basra continue to confront the enemy, inflicting additional losses. They managed to destroy a number of enemy vehicles and troop positions. They also demolished two infantry posts and blew up a number of ammunition dumps.

6. An enemy gunboat and three infantry positions were destroyed and an enemy soldier was killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

7. A vehicle carrying troops was destroyed and all its occupants were killed in the special I Army Corps-Allahu Akbar Forces sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 April 1987

Tariq 'Aziz Meets ROK Foreign Ministry Official

JN201256 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 20, INA — Deputy Prime Minister and Iraq's Foreign Minister, Tariq 'Aziz received here today the South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister For Political Affairs, Pak Su-kil.

Bilateral relations and issues of common concern were discussed at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by foreign undersecretary, head of the second international office in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and the South Korean consuls in Baghdad.

Interior Minister Leaves for Algiers PNC Session

JN191646 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) — Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, Iraqi RCC member and minister of interior, left for Algiers today at the head of a delegation to attend the 18th PNC session, which opens in Algiers tomorrow. The group includes Nuri Isma'il Luwayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary, director of the RCC's Arab Liberation Movements Office, and chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the Iraqi National Assembly.

Local Government Minister Leaves for GDR

JN200919 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA) — Iraqi Local Government Minister 'Adnan Dawud Salman has left for the GDR on a visit scheduled to last several days. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi official said his trip is designed to coordinate cooperation between the two friendly countries, exchange expertise, and acquaint GDR officials with the projects carried out by Iraq's Local Government Ministry. He added that his talks will focus on briefing GDR representatives on Iraq's experience in the application of local administration and discussing ways to broaden bilateral collaboration in this field.

Trade Official Leaves for Group of 77 Meeting

JN191200 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1017 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) — Dr Qubays Sa'id Abd al-Fattah, under secretary at the Trade Ministry, left for Havana today leading an Iraqi delegation to the sixth ministerial meeting of the Group of 77, which will be held there tomorrow. During the session, the conferees will discuss the topics to be presented at the seventh UNCTAD conference scheduled for Geneva in July.

Government Views PLO Abrogation of Amman Accord

JN211550 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] An official spokesman has made the following statement: After becoming acquainted with the PLO Executive Committee's decision to abrogate the 11 February 1985 agreement signed between the Jordanian Government and the PLO, the Jordanian Government would like to emphasize that the accord's principles, which reflect the distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian Arab peoples, will continue to be the beacon guiding Jordan in its serious, continuous efforts on the pan-Arab and international levels to liberate occupied Palestinian territory and enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights.

The 11 February agreement was basically the fruit of a shared Jordanian-Palestinian belief based on the Fes summit resolutions and was aimed at paving the way for PLO participation in the proposed international conference. It was also a pan-Arab step stemming from Jordan's sense of special responsibility toward our kinfolk, the Palestinian people.

As is known by all, Jordan continued to make intensive efforts for the holding of an international conference while insisting on laying the groundwork for PLO participation in that gathering as the Palestinian people's representative. This was despite the fact that coordination with the PLO leadership was suspended on 19 February 1986.

The Jordanian Government emphasizes that it will not allow the Executive Committee's decision to be an obstacle to Arab efforts to reach a just and peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This will be done through an international conference for peace in the Middle East in which the five permanent members of the Security Council will participate along with all parties to the conflict. Regardless of the circumstances, the Palestinian people will continue to have the last word in all matters pertaining to their future, since they are the ones primarily involved in getting rid of the Israeli occupation of their Palestinian land and in regaining their legitimate national rights.

AL-DUSTUR Comments

JN210707 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
21 Apr 87 pp 1, 14

[News Analysis: "On the Abrogation of the Amman Agreement"]

[Text] It appears that eagerness to maintain the unity of the Palestinian factions at any price led to the abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement yesterday. This constitutes a positive response to the groups that fought the accord from the very first day, and is in line with a certain Arab pressure being applied as part of a wider game in the Arab region. It is not the first time this sort of thing has happened, nor will it be the last, as long as the Palestinian people are dispersed among the Arab states and their leaders are affected by the policies of the various countries that host them.

Some Palestinian leaders, within the PLO and outside it, had entertained hopes that such a step would not be made officially. After all, it entails a retreat from the cooperation defined by the Amman accord, even though objective conditions require that the implementation of the Amman agreement be frozen at the present stage. It would have been possible to accept such a theory, particularly as there was no urgent need to abrogate the agreement. However, the settlement of scores among the Palestinian factions themselves, or submission to the Arab pressure to which we have referred, has made abrogation the easiest goal. This is a malaise afflicting Palestinian action, which must be recognized. We must try to contain it and reduce its effects to the minimum; this is the job of the PLO more than anyone else.

Such a trend was clear in the statements yesterday by the PLO to the effect that it will seek to find a new formula for the relations of cooperation with Jordan and with the other Arab countries. The singling out of Jordan by name is imposed by facts that are above transient courtesies, facts such as Jordan's hosting of a large number of Palestinians, and Jordan's direct link with the steadfast people in the occupied homeland, a link that makes the difference between life and death, and between steadfastness and emigration or disappearance.

Jordan's policy has always been rational and responsible in the face of occasional Palestinian vacillations. This is demonstrated by Jordan's wise national [qawmi] stand following the Rabat summit. Such a policy is the result of lengthy experience in government, an understanding of the facts of the Zionist threat, and an appreciation of the difficult circumstances that impose specific stands on the Palestinians. Undoubtedly, Jordan will continue to be committed to a firm policy governed by pan-Arab interests as well as Jordan's leadership role on the Palestinian question.

There is a general realization that those exerting the pressure to which we have referred may have greater ambitions than those realized so far and will seek to bring about a further retreat in Palestinian-Arab relations, whether with Jordan or with Egypt, on various pretexts. However, the wording of the PLO communique suggests that the possibility of submitting to such pressure will remain limited, and that the overriding trend within the PLO is to keep the door open for further dialogue. Those who appreciate the PLO's difficult circumstances and the pressure it is under believe that encouraging such a tendency and responding positively to it is in the interest of all.

SAWT AL-SHA'B on PNC, Palestinian Ties

JN210800 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
21 Apr 87 p 1

[Editorial: "For the Sake of the Cause and Destiny"]

[Text] Amid the extremely grave and complicated atmosphere and circumstances hovering over the Arab region, the PNC begins its work in Algiers, inspired by the hope of achieving Palestinian unity, promoting the creation of a new reality, and ending the suffering, bloodshed, occupation, and usurpation of the occupied territory, which has been under military domination for 20 years.

The comprehensive Palestinian meeting in Algiers must be a step toward fulfilling the dream of our people in Nabulus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jerusalem, and Gaza and diagnosing the deep suffering of the steadfast people in the occupied territory. The meeting must not be turned into an occasion to achieve short-term aims at the expense of the land, the people, and the cause.

Some 40 years have passed while the Palestinian people remained waiting at stations. There are 40,000 promises for return and victory, and many more pretexts for differences and divisions while the land of peace, olives, and oranges continues to groan under the yoke of Zionism and the ambitions of the invaders and imperialists.

If all Arab eyes are focused today on Algiers, we in Jordan, before anyone and more than anyone, continue to experience all aspects of the Palestine question — pain and suffering — and share with the Palestinian people their hope, resolution, and determination to regain their rights. We are not saying this for the sake of one-upmanship, but in order to affirm our common destiny, consecrated by sacrifices and soldiarity in facing the common danger and enemy.

The relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, which has been consecrated by the blood of the martyrs, is a historic reality that exists on the land of reality, as this relationship has endured and will continue to be the hope for unity in modern times. This relationship cannot be subject to any considerations or changes outside the framework of the central issue and the usurped rights.

Palestinian Ties Emphasized

JN210852 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Apr 87 p 1

[Editorial: "And Yet the Destiny is One"]

[Text] The meetings of the 18th PNC session began in Algiers yesterday. If the other observers — Arab brothers, friends, or foes — are following this session from different angles, we in Jordan are following it from a single angle, namely, that the Palestinian question is our primary, daily, and decisive issue and that Jordanian- Palestinian relations have been and still are too important and too deep to be committed to writing or discussed at the conference table, and too important and too deep to be limited to an agreement or topic of discussion. These relations — of history, geography, and destiny — began in a distinguished manner. And, since the beginning leads to the end, these relations, which were written with flesh and blood, will continue at this maximum level of continuous unity.

Palestine, which is currently under occupation and whose people are suffering from all kinds of racist Israeli practices, is for us not an issue of neighborhood and fraternity as it is with other Arab brothers. It is not like that to us in Jordan where the Palestine question is a daily concern and a measure of national loyalty and pan-Arab affiliation. It is such an issue to Syria and to the great Arab homeland from the Gulf to the Ocean.

If we are following the 18th PNC session with the same special interest with which we followed all previous sessions, and if we believe that Palestinian national unity on struggle, steadfastness, and determination is the main basis for every pan-Arab action aimed at ending the suffering of the kinfolk and enabling the Palestinians to achieve their objectives and the comprehensive and complete Israeli withdrawal from every inch of occupied territory, it is because we in Jordan understand that every Palestinian or non-Palestinian gain is, in the end, a pan-Arab gain toward victory and the achievement of further gains. Therefore, we are not concerned about what we believe is an attempt to harm the unity of blood and destiny, or the attempt to divide those who are standing fast in the same trench. What has governed our march for more than 4 decades is too great, too sublime, and too important to be a topic of discussion or a reason to divide two peoples who have been united by common concerns and blood into one people.

The Palestine question is the cause of the entire homeland and nation. It is the cause of the Syrians, Iraqis, Egyptians, and all brothers. It is also our cause in Jordan; of we who have carried the trust sincerely and had the honor of participating in the confrontation courageously. Our blood became mixed in the same trench, our hearts and flesh embraced, and together we bore the responsibility of preserving all that is national and pan-Arab in this arena, which is destined to take on the confrontation and which is always ready to foil and confront all plots.

It is the destiny that was written in blood before it was put down on paper; it is the destiny that cannot be besieged or hurt by words, as its structure was founded and built by the sacrifices of the martyrs and the suffering and hopes of the one people and nation. In view of all this, we are following what is taking place in Algiers with one guiding principle: There is no power that can turn the same people into two peoples; and there is no power capable of beginning the march from where it ended. The beginning was the land of Palestine on which blood, flesh, bullets, and soil intermingled.

Hawi Accuses Amal, Hizballah of Kidnappings

LD192211 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1700 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Report on interview with George Hawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party by Hungarian correspondent Alajos Chrudinak; date and place not given — recorded; Hawi speaks in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Excerpts] [Chrudinak] The identity of the hostage-takers and their political background have been shrouded in mystery from the beginning. We thus investigated in Beirut who these people are and which foreign power's orders they are carrying out. [passage omitted]

I learned in Beirut that my old acquaintance, George Hawi, the general secretary of the Lebanese Communist Party, is the foremost expert on the hostage affair. The Lebanese politician, accepting the risk, is saying in a sensational statement for the first time who the kidnappers are and who stands behind them.

[Hawi] Let me speak first of all about the negative effect of the Iranian revolution in Lebanon. The Iranian revolution has had positive effects in several areas, but it also has had negative consequences. One such negative effect is that it has deepened the religious conflicts, motivated the Shi'ites to form an Islamic Republic. Yet in Lebanon this would be tantamount to dismembering the country. Under these conditions certain groups are taking hostages in order to use them for blackmail. They bargain between Iran, Israel, the United States and the West, offering to swap the hostages for weapons and military aid, as has been demonstrated in the Irangate scandal.

[Chrudinak] Both Fadlallah and Nabih Birri have denied that they have any connection with the kidnappers. So who committed the kidnappings?

[Hawi] I can quite definitely tell you that there is not a word of truth in their statements. I will tell you now, and you can refer to me when you publish this in the world press, because I have proof, that it was the Amal Movement that kept the Saudi Arabian diplomat, Zamanhuri, captive. They kidnapped him, they questioned him and forced him to confess, and they handed him over to Saudi Arabia for money. But Mr Fadlallah also knows very well that the leading personalities of the Hizballah Party, of which he is the spiritual leader, were involved in the hostage-taking, in the kidnapping of foreign citizens.

[Chrudinak] Why does he not release them?

[Hawi] He cannot release them. I know that his intentions are honorable, that he tells the truth when he says that the hostages affair goes beyond the borders of Lebanon, that it is a regional problem. Mr Fadlallah is telling the truth when he indicates where the decision was made regarding the kidnapping of the foreigners.

[Chrudinak] Thus, as you have said, the hostage affair is linked to Irangate. But how is it possible that the Syrian troops in Lebanon cannot find these hostages? Lebanon is not such a big country.

[Hawi] In order for Syria to find the hostages, it must get help, first of all from the Lebanese and also from the foreign authorities concerned. If Syria succeeds in extending its security zone from Beirut down to the south and eventually to the whole of Lebanon, in my opinion this will contribute to the solution of the affair.

Nabih Birri Analyzes 'Chasm' Between Parties

PM211001 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 17 Apr 87 p 15-18

[Interview with Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, by Thurayya 'Asi in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passage omitted] *Al-Hawadith*: As the chasm between you and the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has become deeper, how do you visualize the future of the nationalist alliances, which have been the backbone of the opposition to the government?

Nabih Birri: With regard to the nationalist parties, it must in fact be admitted that there is a chasm — a chasm in both form and content. I cannot imagine that it will be possible to restore relations or alliances or even coordination between the Amal Movement and certain forces without the establishment of a real basis for national action. If you want a brief analogy, I would say that just as there is a need for a convention to govern the relationship between the regime in East Beirut and West Beirut, there is a need for a convention to govern the relationship between the nationalist forces themselves.

Al-Hawadith: Here we come face to face with several fronts on which you base your opposition to the government and the other forces with which you clash in the eastern sector. Can it be said that the same thing applies to your relations with the nationalist forces?

Nabih Birri: No. What I meant here with regard to this subject was that our demands of the nationalist forces are different from our demands of the government. In other words, how can one have demands relating to certain things in life and at the same time have demands relating to some other things. [as published] In other words the minor "appendectomy" we need to carry out on the nationalist forces is not the same as the operation to remove the cancerous tumor between the Lebanese regime and ourselves. So far, we have been unable to carry this out. There is a great difference. There is no disagreement between us and certain nationalist forces with regard to the question of Israel; our line in this regard — which is opposing Israel — could be the same. The attitude of certain other forces needs to be clarified. There is a need for practical and studied steps in this regard. It is not enough to curse the darkness and curse Israel a hundred times and yet not light a candle for the sake of liberation. We are in need of many things in this regard; we need a convention or clear and frank terms so that we will not be in alliance and in disagreement at the same time.

Al-Hawadith: Can we say in this case that you are reviewing the form of the alliance?

Nabih Birri: Exactly.

Al-Hawadith: Following what happened in West Beirut recently,and the entry of the Syrian Arab Army there, how do you visualize the future of the situation in West Beirut and will this in your opinion have an impact on the future comprehensive solution of the crisis?

Nabih Birri: First, with regard to security I believe that the siutation in West Beirut as far as the security situation is concerned has stabilized and even daily life is no longer a problem. Of course, when a final solution is reached, responsibility for security in West Beirut will be put in trustworthy hands, that is of course, after an agreement is reached. In other words, I would imagine here that this will take place after an agreement is reached on a nationalist army and on future prospects. Therefore, I believe that the question of security in West Beirut has been resolved. The minor incidents that occur daily are, of course, intended to cause anxiety. The purpose is to create a state of confusion so that the other areas will not feel the difference between their situation and that in West Beirut. But such minor incidents and such explosions could occur even in France and are daily occuring in Europe and in all the countries in which security could be an "issue."

There is no security problem. The importance of the Syrian step taken in West Beirut is not only important in itself; more important still is the fact that it has changed the situation that existed before. Before this step we had fighting and sedition, sedition even among the various creeds. The Sunnis, the Shi'ahs, and the Druze have signed a blank check. I would not mention the nationalist forces because there is nothing called nationalist forces; they have become parties or rather communities fighting one another. The Lebanese regions are not only divided among themselves but are finished; they are no longer linked to one another. The south has become separated and the coastal road, the Mountain road, and the Al-Awza'i road are blocked. This is in addition to the separation between the eastern and western sectors of Beirut, which means that "cantonization" has been geographic and sociological. What was required was to deepen this separation more than deepening the human psychological rift so that carefully studied plans, which had long been worked out, could be put into effect. But the Syrian step has come in order to restore unity among the Islamic creeds and between the Muslims and Christians with regard to the hope of coexisting, particularly on the basis of what happened in West Beirut. More important still is that this step has opened the areas to one another. As we said, 70 percent of Lebanon has become united at least in form and the remaining 20 or 30 percent cannot reject unity under such circumstances. This is the importance of the Syrian step. It is natural that this step should be given political support; it is natural that it should bring us closer to a solution. After this step the Lebanese or the patriot in Lebanon, who was at the bottom of the wadi and could see absolutely nothing other than the sediments, the rocks, and the rubble hurtling into the wadi, is now back at the mountain top and, in one way or another, can overlook the others. Now he is able to enter into a dialogue with others; he is able to breathe fresh air where this matter is concerned. Consequently this is indeed the beginning of a political solution. But can we benefit from this political solution? I have my own views and I doubt that a solution can be reached.

Al-Hawadith: What is the reason for your doubts?

Nabih Birri: I believe that the regime is not serious. "Did you not believe?" one was asked. "Indeed I did, but just to reassure myself," he answered. In fact I did have doubts. It is said that, if a flexible proposal is put forward, then certain views might change. A five-party proposal was put forward in Damascus, and I believe that there is nothing more flexible than this proposal. Its flexibility is such that the saying do not be too flexible or else you will be "squeezed" is appropriate. In other words, after such flexibility comes the squeezing. The recent plan the regime submitted is tantamount to returning to the 1943 Convention and the custom that it produced. There is absolutely nothing new in it.

Al-Hawadith: What in your opinion is the reason for the regime's retraction? Is it because of the flexibility you talked about or are there international reasons?

Nabih Birri: No, the matter is not so simple. I believe that there are international reasons. That is, what about an international conference? What about visits to Baghdad and Tel Aviv? There are several questions that are being posed.

Al-Hawadith: I would like to take you back to the talk about the security step in Beirut and to your talk about political backing for it. Can we here reopen the file of the broad national front that was talked about earlier?

Nabih Birri: If you mean the National Unity Front [Jabhat al-Ittihad al-Watani], it was not the Amal Movement that hindered it. Unfortunately certain parties can speak openly only against the Amal Movement but are neither sincere nor frank about what is indeed to Amal Movement's credit. We were represented in the National Unity Front at the highest levels, and we did not miss a single meeting. We did all we could to make it succeed. This step failed because of others, not because of us. Even the others cannot do things alone. Historically we are not responsible for any mistakes with regard to this step. But if the question concerns bringing about the success of a Lebanese dialogue through a national conference then I am all for it if there is a real serious intention to reach an inter-Lebanese agreement. The form is relevant to the content. I see no more reassuring form than the council of ministers meeting as a dialogue body; there is no objection to the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies joining the body and for the body meeting in Damascus, provided that it is preceded by a sincere show of willingness to make concessions. What do I mean by concessions? Let us be frank: I mean the 1943 formula and the custom that emanated from this formula because everything that is built on corrupt material is corrupt; it absolutely cannot bring about a solution in Lebanon. Perhaps there are those who wager on liberating the era; let the dialogue remain open until the end of the era. [sentence as published] What matters is the end of the era. We have not conceded anything. They must think carefully of how we are going to shift Lebanon to a new era. If no conciliation is reached I am afraid there will be no new era. Would this be in the interest of the Lebanese people? Is this in the interest of the president of the republic in particular? Of what value is the president of the republic? I am not here referring to Al-Jumayyil in particular. When Shaykh al-Jumayyil says "I want to do this and that," it means that he has taken over Lebanon. [as published] The American dollar used

to be 2.5 Lebanese pounds, now it is 114 pounds to the dollar and if things remain as they are it could become 250 pounds. In other words, such a step by him would go down in the annals of history, but he could avoid going down in history this way. He can achieve political reform so that at least it will go on record that at the end of his era he established a new Lebanon.

Al-Hawadith: What in your opinion are the international factors that prompted the regime to go back on the paper it recently submitted at a time when it was being said that negotiations were continuing?

Nabih Birri: You realize that there is nothing 100 percent certain in political proposals. But I would like to throw some light or send certain signals and references which I leave the reader to interpret. A major question is being posed: the second paper submitted to Damascus [by the regime] was more advanced and positive than the recent one, bearing in mind that the second paper was prepared in conditions in which the Palestinian-Lebanese situation was worse than it is now and the inter-Lebanese situation as far as the nationalist forces are concerned was worse than it is now as well. That is, instead of progressing we are retrogressing. In the meantime Israel has returned to Lebanon. It is known that Israel announced that it has left Lebanon, although it had directly or indirectly remained constantly present. But today Israel has returned and declared that it will return and will remain. I do not think that this return is totally unconnected with what is happening inside Lebanon. That is the first point.

Second, the current direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in my view go beyond the question of an international conference. The world is proposing the idea of an international conference. For what and for whom is this conference? The purpose of an international conference is to find a just solution for the Palestine problem under UN auspices. If the dialogue that was initiated in Bucharest and recently led to a meeting between Shim'on Peres and some Palestinian personalities and if the idea of a joint [Jordanian-Palestinian] delegation is accepted, which means accepting resolution 242 and a solution in the West Bank — if the purpose of accepting the invitation to an international conference is to bless and extend congratulations on what has been achieved, will Lebanon be allowed to resolve its problem before taking part in this incense-burning? There are yet other things.

Al-Hawadith: Can we here link the recent escalation by the Lebanese Front and the Lebanese Forces and what Israel is preparing to the developments relating to the airport, for example?

Nabih Birri: I do not like to make unsubstantiated accusations. But I would like to say: No conciliation has been reached, but we are still working for it. What is required, as Shaykh Muhammad Shams al-Din says, is to carry on with the dialogue even if it is going to take 20 or 30 meetings. What is important is not to stop the negotiations, because dialogue gives hope. I would like also to ask another question: If the dialogue does not lead to any results, what is there to stop us from opening the crossings [between Beirut sectors]? I did propose this, but refrained from publicizing it. I asked for the opening of the Al-Tayyunah crossing which, as is known, is useful for the House of Justice, which serves both East and West Beirut. Of course, if the army is deployed on the crossings as it was deployed in the western sector, the Al-Tayyunah crossing will shift from being under the western sector authority to being under the eastern sector. Yesterday I met with lawyer 'Isam Karam, doyen of the lawyers, and asked him to join me in the efforts to open the Sodeco crossing in order to facilitate the passage of lawyers. Who is hindering this step? Is it Amal? Using Amal as an excuse is no longer valid. If a disaster were to befall someone, he would blame Amal. The masks and veils today have been torn away. The Beirut International Airport is countered by Halat airport. Though I must say here that I personally favor opening more than just Halat airport in the eastern sector, but this should be after Lebanese reconciliation is attained and Lebanon's integrity is restored. I am in favor of Halat Airport and of 10 airports in the eastern sector and elsewhere. There is no problem here because then the ministry of public works will indeed have power and authority. But now nobody has authority, not even over his own home. Therefore I am not against Halat airport until political conciliation is reached. But before political conciliation it would mean a trend toward partitioning. If we remained without an airport, we would still be able to walk on our feet within one integrated Lebanon. [as published] But if we begin taking such steps and rush into things, this would lead us to partitioning. What is more important in this respect is to take steps to reopen the port of Beirut, which at least would enable the legitimate authorities to facilitate the transportation of foodstuffs for the people. I must warn those who are trying to procrastinate and maintain the status quo until 1988 that there is absolutely no guarantee that the situation will remain as it is forever. Bread, hunger, the dollar, and the present economic situation pose a major problem. Therefore, if we can at least reach a conciliation then let us proceed within this framework. Prime Minister Karami said today that he is seeking to curb price increases and to bring the people together. That is, at least, if they do not want reconciliation. But I say that this is a must and the sooner it is done the better.

Al-Hawadith: If things remain as they are and you do not reach any agreement, what measures can you take in order to deal with the situation?

Nabih Birri: Then we must know what would happen at the end of 1988 [when Al-Jumayyil's term of office ends].

Al-Hawadith: You have asked for measures and steps to be taken in the meantime. What are these measures and steps?

Nabih Birri: I suggest that we should work for conciliation and for the achievement of things that are important for the people, such as opening the crossings. Let us at least reach a conciliation on bread and on food supplies. I have always said that we are prepared to work for achieving this, although I cannot imagine it is going to be easy. I do not like to draw such a pessimistic picture of the situation, but I am certain that negotiations will lead nowhere. Nobody can impose dialogue and peace in Lebanon. Conciliation and peace are a matter of conviction and persuasion. Most important of all it is to abandon the Israeli line in Lebanon.

Al-Hawadith: Let us pause a moment at the question of the airport. In your opinion, are the opposition by the Lebanese Front

and the Lebanese Forces to the resumption of air traffic and their threat to bomb it the only obstacles to reopening it, bearing in mind that you said earlier that this was not the problem and that in response to the threats you said that if they fire one shot we will fire a thousand?

Nabih Birri: I still adhere to the statement I made before — that the closure of the airport is an American decision. Ja'ja' is benefiting from this U.S. pressure so that he will "act tough." The truth in my view is that the Americans still stick to their stand because if they had the desire they would have given the green light for the reopening of the airport. The first one to say that he is ready and willing would be Ja'ja'.

Al-Hawadith: Is the U.S. stand on the question of the airport linked to the question of the hostages in Lebanon?

Nabih Birri: No, it is an attitude of taking revenge on Lebanon, especially on Shultz' part. Anyone who knows this man personally can see that he bears a grudge against Lebanon — that is since the question of the multinational forces arose. Inasmuch as the Americans are "tormenting" the world with this subject, Shultz does not show a grudge toward others. But as for the Lebanese question, he bears a particular grudge against Lebanon. We can say that this goes back to the day the 17 May agreement was abrogated, to be exact.

Al-Hawadith: What is the situation regarding the hostages?

Nabih Birri: My offer with regard to the four BUC [Beirut University College] professors still stands.

Al-Hawadith: His Eminence Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that the question of hostages concerns America and Iran. What is your attitude toward this?

Nabih Birri: Maybe His Eminence Fadlallah is better informed than I on this subject, but I am against the kidnapping of any person and particularly the kidnapping of foreigners. In my offer to exchange the Israeli prisoner (pilot) for the four professors, I aimed to help Lebanon on one hand by enabling those four men to go back to their educational institution and on the other hand to render a human service to those prisoners. This stand is not new on our part. Since the beginning — that is since 1975 for those whose memory fails them — I was at the side of Imam Musa al-Sadr when during the Lebanese civil war we acted merely as mediators in the efforts to stop the kidnapping which the Phalange had started then. For the record it must be said that first credit in this effort goes to the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, whose headquarters then was in Al-Hazimiyah. Incidentally, Amin al-Jumayyil, the son of Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, had twice come to the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council in order to deliver kidnapped persons and receive others in return. At that time we were called "the movement of the kidnapped" because we had done so much work on this matter. We have always rejected using man as a commodity. In the matter of foreigners — Kuwaitis, French, Americans, or Saudis — and the matter of the TWA airliner we always faced accusations despite the fact that we acted as mediators. In the recent past when the Saudis were involved, 'Arafat was afraid that someone might beat him to it, although it is not a question of competition since the Saudis are our brothers. It was said that he paid a ransom for the hostages. But thankfully [Saudi mediator] Rafiq al-Hariri said that this was not true; it was not true that a ransom has been paid. We are now doing all we can in order to reach a solution with regard to kidnapped foreigners. As for the kidnapped Lebanese, we hope that all the parties will abstain from this habit.

Al-Hawadith: Let us move to the south. The Amal Movement is facing several problems in the south, beginning with the movement which Hasan Hashim launched and ending with the stands and proclamations of Dawud Dawud.

Nabih Birri: First, are those who are asking such questions doing so out of fear for the Amal Movement? If it is out of fear for the movement then we will reassure them. But if their intention is foul play and preoccupation with appearances then let them think whatever they want to think.

First of all there is no problem with regard to Brother Dawud Dawud. He is an active leader and one of the movement's figures. He was the political officer in charge for the southern region and as such he is a member of the political bureau. As a result of the change we carried out in the region Brother Dawud has remained member of the political bureau but nothing else has changed. He is still in the movement. The change that took place in the south was not a change in persons but a change in the institution. The southern region command means the Council for Managing the Movement in the South. Maybe there is nothing against them as individuals — they are good, they are believers, and they are strong — but collective action was bad. This became apparent when security "indiscipline" occurred in the south. This management was in need of change and replacement, so we appointed a temporary administration to carry out the change. We act on any defect. Therefore, the aim was not to change the individuals but the institution. We have clarified this several times. The leadership in the southern region consulted and participated in the change that took place there. So let them be more reassured. On Wednesday evening I summoned the region's command members to see me, and they stayed with me until midnight before an organizational statement was issued on Thursday morning. A reform was necessary to keep things from worsening, which is unacceptable.

Hasan Hashim committed falsehoods. We uncovered his links outside the movement. We have established that he had links with the pro-'Arafat elements. He felt that he was going to be brought to trial. He was in fact referred to trial but still he took his step. Every self-respecting democratic organization must ensure that it does not intervene by blood-letting. The Amal Movement has observed this principle. Thank God no blood was spilled. But the legitimate institutions of such a democratic organization have the right to ensure that an end is put to such an abnormality. Therefore, a resolution was issued dismissing Hasan Hashim from the movement; he is now outside the movement. This is final. Hasan Hashim is not the first to be dismissed from the Amal Movement, though we hope he will be the last. But with regard to the movement that occurred in the south, it is — contrary to current belief — a sign of health. We might likewise find it necessary to carry out certain reforms in other areas such as Beirut and Al-Biqa'. We will not hesitate a single moment in doing so and we are proceeding in this direction.

Al-Hawadith: What about the question of the army partisans [ansar al-jaysh]?

Nabih Birri: The Amal Movement has nothing whatsoever to do with the question of army partisans. The army partisans are the supporters of the 6th Brigade which the Lebanese Army recruit and train. What have I to do with this subject? The army partisans movement has been in existence for a long time; it is in the Al-Biqa'. But there is a plan for the 6th Brigade partisans in Beirut and the South. What is the basis of this idea? In fact we have found out that the Army command carries out recruiting for the brigades under its control. We have found more than that: The national brigades have been allowed to recruit 100 to 150 persons, who are now being trained in Al-Yarzah. In the meantime there is constant restriction on the 6th Brigade in this matter. In other words they want to force the 6th Brigade to pay the price of its allegiance to the nationalist Arab Islamic line and the Amal Movement line. As a minister for the South and minister of state and, like them, [as published] being part of the government, I gave the authorization for enlisting recruits for the Lebanese Army. The Amal Movement has nothing to do with them, and I have nothing to do with them or their choice. If any reconciliation takes place in the Army in the future they [the recruits] will be part of it. In other words, I have used my governmental right in this matter.

Al-Hawadith: Let us discuss the question of the expelled ones [not further specified]. Following the events in West Beirut, there was a major uproar over the assassinations that have taken place as well as about the question of the expelled ones.

Nabih Birri: According to a fable that is related in the south about Khoja [legendary comic character], he once wanted to rest but there were children playing and making a noise nearby. So he went out and told them that there was a wedding taking place in a nearby village. They went running to the wedding. After a while he thought to himself: Could it not be that there is a wedding indeed? Why shouldn't I join them? He followed them in order to make sure.

This is one of the methods those who claim to be leftists follow. Of course, this is done under communist — that is Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] — control, management, and orchestration. The world communist parties are noted for their struggle. We respect them in most cases. But apparently here they could not fight Al-Jumayyil, the Hizballah Party, or Israel. They wanted a pretext. They fought whoever they found standing in their way. They thought they would "come to grips" with the Amal Movement because it has become fashionable to do so. Ja'ja' has nothing else to do but attack the Amal Movement; so does Israel and the pro-'Arafat Palestinians. You would observe that the media have nothing to talk about other than the siege of the camps. Oh my Husayn! Nobody talks about the siege of the apple region? The continuing siege of the citrus and fruit plantations in southern Lebanon. A whole people is being besieged while fighting Israel. Bearing in mind that we did say [to the Palestinians]: Brothers, we have erred and you say that you do not wish to expand. So let us together lift the siege, and we are prepared to carry this out.

The LCP knows very well who carried out the criminal attacks against them and against the late [journalist and writer] Husayn Muruwah. But that's the way it is. The Amal Movement for the Restoration of Lebanon and Its Arabism is acting as a barrier. It is blocking the solutions that more than one party in the nationalist movement desires, and it stands its ground. For these reasons, they have concentrated on us. Just like Khoja — with his "kids, there's a wedding in Sidon" — everybody ran toward Sidon believing that there was a wedding there. And Khoja himself believed it. The wedding was over so they were told to go back. It is to be noted here that the words of brother 'Abd al-Majid Salah are especially significant. He is the political officer in charge of Amal in the south and the brother of one of the martyrs who fell there, namely Ahmad Salih. In other words, he was the first to know whether or not the Amal Movement in the south had actually expelled them [not further specified] or not. Is it conceivable that the Amal Movement killed 'Abd al-Majid Salih's brother?

Perhaps in this case the Amal Movement could be blamed for having shown some shortcoming which led to these incidents which, in addition to others, involved the Communists and the Amal Movement. Of course, some justification for what happened was that we were in a tense state of war from Al-Rashidiyah to Sidon. There was also the question of the Israeli situation and the Israelis' return to the border strip. The movement was fighting Israel obstinately, which led to some security "indiscipline." [as published] One of the reasons was also the change in the southern region command. The Amal Movement might be blamed for its shortcoming, but there is a vast difference between the crime of having a shortcoming and the crime of murder. We do not deny that there was a shortcoming, but we refute their lies and falsehoods. They falsely claim that we have attacked people and expelled them. If there is a committee for the expelled people consisting of 10 or 15 people who fled in order to attack Amal, there are hundreds of thousands of Amal Movement's people whom Israel is attacking. And this is not the first time that the Amal Movement's people have come under attack.

Al-Hawadith: The south is still under occupation. You believe that the way to liberation is resistance. Do you believe that the resistance today as it is taking place in the south is pursuing the sound course?

Nabih Birri: Most certainly and despite all difficulties it is facing. The number of operations carried out by the Amal Movement last week was nine. That is an average of more than one operation per day. There are other resistances. [as published] We hope to develop this matter. Our proposal still stands and it is up to the Communists and the Palestinians if they still wish to follow this path. Our proposal concerns a joint operations room. We are quite ready, and we have already set it up. We welcome anyone who wishes to participate in this room. We will provide a gun for anyone who does not have one, that is, as far as those who want to fight Israel are concerned. But those who wish to "parade" in the streets, control the south, and play the card of the south at an international conference, they can do so only over our dead bodies. Since 1982 the south has pledged absolutely not to not succumb.

Group Claims 15 Casualties in Attack on Syrians

NC210846 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] The internal security forces have not been able to assess the outcome of an attack on a Syrian position inside the Al-Jiyah thermal laboratory at dawn today. According to security sources, the Syrian forces have thrown a security and media cordon around the scene of the incident.

A person claiming to speak on behalf of the Fityan 'Ali group of the national liberation forces claimed responsibility for the attack, adding that the group managed to kill or wound 15 Syrians and to destroy the center, which was established following the Syrians' deployment along the coastal road. According to the group, the commander of the Syrian unit, a first lieutenant, was killed.

The latest reports on the Al-Jiyah incident note that a number of ambulances were moving between Beirut and the coastal road this morning, which indicates that there were indeed casualties.

Syrians Deny Incident

NC211019 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] The Syrian occupation forces are still restricting entry into the area surrounding the Al-Jiyah thermal laboratory, where an explosion took place at a Syrian position at dawn today.

A spokesman for the Fityan 'Ali group of the Lebanese Liberation Front has telephoned Radio Free Lebanon, claiming the front's responsibility for the operation. The spokesman said that members of the front landed by sea and planted explosive devices in the bedrooms of the [Syrian] special forces stationed at the Al-Jiyah thermal laboratory. According to the spokesman, 10 to 15 Syrians, including a first lieutenant said to be commander of the unit, were killed.

In another statement, the front noted that all the members [of the Syrian unit] are from special units working under the command of Colonel Hashim al-Mu'alla, who perpetrated the Al-Basta massacre of Hizballah forces. The front called for the execution of Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Beirut], Hashim al-Mu'alla, and Major Ahmad Khaddur, who are liquidating people and throwing them into the sea in the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' area.

Meanwhile, the Syrian forces have absolutely denied that their position in Al-Jiyah was the scene of an explosion. A spokesman for the Syrian observers told AFP that the claims of the Lebanese Liberation Front are completely groundless.

Lebanese police sources have told AFP that an explosion took place this morning in the Al-Jiyah area, but did not specify the exact location.

Hizballah Captures, Releases Finnish UN Soldiers

LD191636 Helsinki International Service in Finnish 1500 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] According to international news agencies, extremist Lebanese Muslim Hizballah fighters abducted two Finnish UN soldiers as hostages during an attack yesterday. The Muslim fighters attacked positions held by the Israeli-backed Southern Lebanese Army (SLA) and fled after the attack by way of the Finnish-patrolled zone. The news agencies REUTER and AP say that a group of 20 fighters took hostage two Finns who were on patrol, seized their personal weapons and radios, and stole the Finns' personal belongings. Later, when departing, the Hizballah fighters released the Finns. It is supposed by [word indistinct] that the fighters originally intended to use the Finnish base as a refuge after their attack.

Major General Hans Christensen, head of the Department of Military Affairs at the Defense Ministry, confirms that a reporter for the UNIFIL troops had at the same time sent a report about the incident [passage indistinct]

Resistance Fighters Ambush 'Zionist' Patrol

NC201617 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] A group of men from the Faithful Resistance-Amal ambushed a patrol of Zionist enemy intelligence officers at the Al-Jarmaq-al-'Ayshiyah triangle today. The resistance fighters directed their RPG's and light-caliber machine guns at the patrol, wounding three of the Zionist intelligence offiers. Immediately afterward, the original group withdrew and a support group then lay in wait for the Zionist reinforcements. Upon the arrival of the reinforcements, which included two APC's along with an infantry platoon, the faithful fighters attacked with 60- and 88-mm mortars. The combatants scored direct hits, and 15 enemy personnel were either killed or wounded.

At 1100, another group of resistance men shelled the Tallat al-Suwayda' post, which is manned by the enemy and agent forces, with 60- and 88-mm mortars. Accurate hits were scored but the casualties have yet to be determined. All resistance groups returned safely to base.

Al-Asad Reportedly To Postpone USSR Visit

NC201739 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Citing highly placed Palestinian sources, *Reuter* reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will probably postpone his visit to the USSR until after the PNC session ends. He will then be in a position to discuss future Palestinian-Syrian relations with Soviet officials.

Iranian Ambassador to Syria on Oil, Hostages

JN162043 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2000 GMT 16 Apr 87

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The Iranian ambassador to Syria held a news conference in Damascus today in which he announced that there will be some positive results in the next few days in the question of oil between Syria and Iran. He also denied any Iranian connection with the Western hostages held in Lebanon. Here is a report from Louis Faris:

[Begin recording] Regarding the renewal of the oil agreement between Syria and Iran and his meeting with the Syrian oil minister, the Iranian ambassador said: I hope you will hear some new information on this next week. As for the release of hostages in Lebanon and the places where they are held, he declared: This subject was not and will not be linked to Iran. Thus, he who knew nothing about the subject to begin with cannot say when they will be freed.

Turning to Syrian-Iranian relations, the Iranian ambassador said: They are ties of warm and close friendship. We deeply appreciate the Syria's positions, particularly those of President Hafiz al-Asad, which were and continue to be the object of admiration and appreciation in Iran. He added: Relations between Iran and Syria are fraternal, and our friendship is very strong now as it was in the past. These bonds will remain strong, solid, and on the highest levels, despite the will of our enemies.

Concluding, the Iranian ambassador explained: Relations between Syria and Iran grow stronger each day. [end recording]

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC200548 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Our country's deputy foreign minister, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, has arrived in Damascus at the head of a political delegation. Mr Sheykh ol-Eslam and his entourage were welcomed at Damascus Airport by the political deputy of the Syrian Foreign Affairs Ministry and other ministry officials. The Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation and Syrian officials will discuss bilateral ties, the latest developments in the region, and other topics of mutual interest.

Received by Al-Shar'

JN201334 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, at noon today. Deputy Foreign Minister Diya'allah al-Fattal, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and Mahmud Hashemi, head of the political department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, were also present.

Talks focused on bilateral relations and the current situation in the region.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN201837 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam this evening. Among those present were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iran's ambassador in Damascus.

The Iranian official delivered a letter from President Khamene'i on regional developments and bilateral ties. The president gave him a written reply for the Iranian president.

IRNA on Al-Asad Meeting

LD211004 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, April 21, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and submitted President Khamene'i's message to him Monday.

The regional situation, bilateral relations and ways of countering enemies' plots against the progressive forces in the region, were among topics discussed in the meeting, at which Iranian ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' were also present.

Emphasizing support for their joint stance they said, that various plots no matter how numerous they are, cannot harm the two countries' will to achieve the just goals, endeavoured by the two Muslim nations of iran and Syria.

Al-Na'ib Receives Nicaraguan Delegation

JN162112 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2015 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] 'Isam al-Na'ib, minister of state for foreign affairs, met today with a Nicaraguan parliamentary delegation. The group, which is led by the chairman of the Nicaraguan National Assembly's Legislative Affairs Committee, is visiting Syria at the invitation of the People's Assembly. Talks centered on the current international situation and the latest developments in the Caribbean and Middle East. The head of the Nicaraguan delegation praised the struggle waged by Syria, under the leadership

of President Hafiz al-Asad, against imperialism and Zionism. They also discussed relations between the two friendly states and ways of developing them.

Delegation Ends Visit

JN181206 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] A Nicaraguan parliamentary delegation under Rogelio Ramirez, chairman of the Nicaraguan National Assembly's Legislative Affairs Committee, left Damascus this morning at the end of a 4-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the People's Assembly. During its stay, the Nicaraguan delegation met with several senior party, state, and People's Assembly officials.

Ramirez expressed satisfaction with the results of the trip. Hesaid the delegation's talks with People's Assembly officials have confirmed the closeness of their views, particularly on the various topics to be raised at the 17th IPU conference in Managua. To be more specific, this was true of subjects dealing with imperialism, Zionism, and solidarity with peoples fighting for liberation and independence. Ramirez also praised the relations between Syria and Nicaragua and highly valued Syria's prominent role in the region, under the leadership of struggler Hafiz al-Asad, in restoring the Palestinian people's inalienable rights.

Soviet Friendship Delegation Arrives in Damascus

JN171405 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus — Mrs Roza Bazarova, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium member, deputy chairman of the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers, and foreign affairs minister of the Turkmen SSR, and the members of her delegation, arrived in Damascus this morning to participate in the celebration of Syrian-Soviet friendship days.

In a statement upon arrival in Damascus, Bazarova emphasized that the Soviet people and the world's progressive forces view Syria as a symbol of the Arabs' steadfastness in their fight to oppose imperialist and Zionist schemes and liberate Arab territories. She added: The Soviet people stand beside Syria in its persistent struggle. She expressed her confidence that the bilateral ties of comprehensive friendship and cooperation would continue to develop and strengthen for the sake of social progress, justice, and world peace.

The Soviet delegation also includes Mrs (Babit Tatalijian), USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium member in the Turkmen SSR [name and title as heard], and Dr (Shakanin), a Soviet specialist in oriental studies.

Received by Culture Minister

JN181544 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus — Dr Najah al-'Attar, minister of culture and national guidance, has expressed gratitude for the support in all fields which the Soviet Union gives Syria. The minister praised bilateral cooperation and the understanding and mutual respect existing between the Soviet Union and Syria. This came during a meeting between Dr Najah al-'Attar and Roza Bazarova, member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers [title as heard], and the members of her delegation, who are taking part in Syrian-Soviet friendship days.

Tamir: 'Conditions Ripe' for Talks This Summer
TA170929 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Apr 87 p B2

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir by 'Aqiva Eldar; date and place not given]

[Text] [Eldar] What target are you aiming for at this stage? For example, what did your talks with the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors to the United Nations focus on?

[Tamir] The main topic I am dealing with is that of the preparatory talks for the international conference. The two main problems are the demand that the conference not intervene in the direct talks, and, particularly, the problem of the Palestinian representation. There is no argument over the need for an international framework on the basis of diplomatic relations between the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and each of the sides.

[Eldar] Do you, then, believe the Russians are capable of changing their traditional policy on the Middle East?

[Tamir] It is true that some people oppose the USSR's inclusion in the framework, claiming that the extremist elements that could make it difficult to find solutions should be isolated. They also say this about Syria. I say that if the goal is to achieve comprehensive, stable peace, we must not forget that such peace depends not only on the level of agreements reached between the direct sides, but also on the level of arrangements and understand-ings reached between the superpowers, and perhaps all five of them. Here we are already talking about spheres that will lower the level of confrontation between the blocs, which constitutes the main cause of the instability in the region.

[Eldar] From what you say, there is room to give preference to a process that includes some external involvement.

[Tamir] As long as there is no comprehensive, stable peace, we have interim solutions that consequently suffer from instability, and the security factor dominates all such arrangements. In contrast to this, the solutions for permanent borders depend on a different set of relations. Therefore, if you isolate the extremists, such as the Russians and the Syrians, whatever you achieve will be subject to their negative influence. If our only problem were that of the framework of the conference, not that of the Palestinian representation, the ground would be ready for an understanding on direct talks with the opening of an international conference. This is because the Russians and Chinese are already now talking about direct talks.

[Eldar] And what about the Jordanians?

[Tamir] Negotiations can be held with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, not a Jordanian-PLO one, in the preparatory talks. Once the talks begin, momentum will be of great importance because matters might develop along lines that are not necessarily those being mentioned today. Therefore, in my talks in the United States, I emphasized the preparatory talks, with the forum not being that of the international conference nor that proposed by the Russians — that the five permanent members should do the preparatory work.

They, as well as the UN secretary general, have dropped this, as they have done with the talks on the basis of the UN Security Council resolutions. I believe conditions are ripe for preparatory talks to begin this very summer. But let us call a spade a spade: The preparatory talks must lead to an international conference, and here the political echelons will have to decide.

[Eldar] How do you see the development of relations with the Soviet Union?

[Tamir] The Russians want to develop in order to further their economy and for the sake of progress and social welfare in the Soviet Union. To this end they must increase the cooperation with and openness toward the West. There are internal differences of opinion, but the majority favors opening the door. I believe there is also positive development on the issue of emigration. In any event, the ground will be laid for different relations with the USSR, and this will also help the peace process.

[Eldar] Do you also anticipate a formal change in Soviet-Israeli relations?

[Tamir] It is normal — and we also saw this with Egypt — for them not to want to release to the media all the developments in this field because of internal problems. The Russians and Chinese do not want to accept a linkage between relations with us and the conference, and they say relations will develop naturally. I do not understand the outcry of those who say the consular delegation is only coming to examine assets. China's relations with the United States began with a game of ping-pong. We must remember that for a long time they appealed to us through a third party when they wanted something from us.

[Eldar] In the meantime it appears that it is actually the Americans who are hesitating and keeping a low profile.

[Tamir] I have no doubt that it is clear to the Americans that it would be impossible to reach a peace process without a conference. Remember that the Mena House talks were also held under the banner of the Geneva conference. I believe the Americans have decided to show more initiative because they believe the conditions are riper for the success of a move that will soon lead to talks.

Hungary, RAKAH Support International Conference
TA190825 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 87 p 7

[Text] Two members of the Central Committee of the Hungarian communist party visited Israel last week as guests of RAKAH. They were Jozsef Gyorke, deputy head of the International Relations Department of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee, and Szami Szoltan [name as published], who is a member of the same department.

The pair, who returned to Hungary the day before yesterday, issued a joint communique with RAKAH expressing support for Gorbachev's moves toward world peace and for the international

conference with the participation of Israel and the PLO. They also signed an agreement on furthering relations between the two nations. The intention is to initiate mutual visits by representatives of public organizations, not necessarily communist ones.

Hungary Repeals Limitations on Israeli Imports

TA210901 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Apr 87 p 4

[Report by economic affairs correspondent Tzvi Zerahya]

[Text] Israel and Hungary will soon expand commercial ties; Israel will not take any action to block imports from Hungary and will increase exports to it. This was reported last night to *Ha'aretz* by Yoram Blizovsky, the director general of the Industry and Trade Ministry, who returned last week from an official visit to Hungary.

Blizovsky was accompanied on the visit by Zohar Peri, the deputy director of the Foreign Trade Administration in the Industry and Trade Ministry, and by Moshe Zanbar, the former governor of the Bank of Israel. The delegation was the guest of the Hungarian foreign trade minister and its foreign trade bank.

The discussions centered on bilateral trade and ways to expand it beyond the relatively limited list of goods currently traded between the two countries.

According to Blizovsky, the Hungarians want to increase imports from Israel of goods in the fields of agricultural mechanization, food industry, energy conserving equipment, and communications equipment. The possibility of increasing trade in high-tech industrial goods was also broached.

Blizovsky noted that his impression from the talks was that Hungary is showing openness toward expanding trade with Israel on the basis of reciprocity. The Hungarians thus announced that they have repealed all the limitations — which stemmed from political causes — imposed against the import of goods from Israel.

In view of this, the Israeli representatives announced that they would discuss ways to relax criteria for the import to Israel of wares "that are not sensitive insofar as import is concerned." At the same time, the Industry and Trade Ministry seeks to guarantee that the special trade conditions given Hungary will not be exploited for import from other countries under Hungarian labels.

According to Industry and Trade Ministry statistics, Israeli exports to Hungary currently stand at $10.5 million per annum, while imports from that country amount to $11 million.

Israelis Participate in Warsaw Uprising Ceremony

TA171344 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] An official ceremony was held today in Warsaw to commemorate the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. A memorial was held this morning near the statue, at the site of the ghetto, with the participation of a Polish Army honor guard. Our correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi reports that 25 wreaths were laid. Israeli representatives headed by Ambassador Mordekhay Paltzur, who is in charge of the Israeli interest office in Warsaw, laid a large wreath in the shape of the Star of David. The ceremony lasted some 45 minutes. Many American and Jewish tourists watched the ceremony.

Later Ambassador Paltzur and the heads of the Jewish community walked to the site on Mila Street, the location of the bunker of the uprising's leaders. A memorial service is being held at present in the Jewish theater in Warsaw. Yesterday there was another memorial service near the statue, attended by youth delegations from Israel.

Poland Ready To Act as Immigrant Transit Station

TA190618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Poland is prepared to act as a transit station for Soviet Jews if and when their exit is permitted. This was said at the end of the week by Polish diplomatic sources in France to our correspondent in Paris, Gid'on Kouts.

[Begin Kouts recording] Poland would be happy to play the same role it has played in the past, Polish diplomatic sources told me. Poland regards such a role as politically beneficial, helping it accumulate political and other points it can use in the international arena. The Poles do not yet know how many will be leaving if and when Moscow gives the go-ahead for the implementation of the emigration program. They are following the tightening of the Israeli-Soviet contacts with interest; they are also interested in Israeli fears that a considerable number of emigrants may opt not to go to Israel.

Poland supports Mikhail Gorbachev's reform plan and says it fits in with the policy already begun by the Polish administration. Nevetheless, we still have to see whether the following Czech joke turns out to be true. Question: What is the difference between Gorbachev and Dubcek? Answer: There is no difference, but Gorbachevdoes not yet know this.

The Poles are satisfied with the progress made in consular relations between them and Israel, but they are concerned about the expected building of Voice of America installations in Israel. Poland has submitted an unofficial protest to Israel against what it regards as a third country's aid to anti-Polish propaganda. [end recording]

Committee Transfers $186,000 to Pollard Lawyers

TA201830 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The Israeli Public Committee for the Pollards will transfer $186,000 to the couple. This has been reported by Arnon Dror, a committee member. The majority of this sum has already been transferred to the couple's lawyers in Washington for financing the trial, and the rest of the sum will be transferred to the bank

account of Anne and Jonathan Pollard in the United States. The committee thus has ended its function.

Pro-Syrian Demonstrations 'Pre-empted' in Golan

TA190728 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Apr 87 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Majdal Shams — A massive show of strength by security forces in Golan Heights Druse villages on Friday ensured that Syrian independence day celebrations passed quietly, although not totally without incident.

The police tactics effectively pre-empted whatever thoughts the 15,000-strong Druse residents of the region may have entertained about marking the event with pro-Syrian and anti-Israel demonstrations.

Shortly after first light hundreds of police and border police moved into the villages of 'Ayn Qunyah, Buq'ata, Mas'adah and Majdal Shams.

The security forces, heavily equipped with riot gear, took up strategic positions on rooftops and along the roads. Horses used for crowd control were brought in from Jerusalem.

Troop carriers and a water cannon mounted on a half-track were prominently displayed in the main square of Majdal Shams. The village was the scene of anti-police violence after the recently unveiled statue of Druse hero Sultan al-Atrash was mysteriously damaged. Druse residents maintained it was a deliberate act of sabotage by "Jewish extremists" and three policemen were pelted with stones and beaten when they went to the village to investigate the incident.

Police Inspector-general David Kraus, who spent the day on the Heights, intimated that Friday's show of strength was in response to the "grave events of the previous week" and the recent wave of unrest in the region. Kraus told reporters that several people had already been detained for questioning and more arrests were imminent.

The Druse, it seemed, got the message. Half-hearted attempts by youths in 'Ayn Qunyah and Majdal Shams to organize demonstrations were nipped in the bud.

The only Syrian flags in evidence on the day were those raised on the Syrian side of the border where thousands of Druse gathered on a hilltop opposite Majdal Shams. [passage omitted]

Shamir Rejects Early Elections Proposal

TA190757 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Apr 87 p 3

[Report by Dorit Gefen]

[Text] On Friday Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir unequivocally rejected the possibility of the Likud supporting a draft bill for early elections.

At a meeting held at the Tehiya leaders' initiative, the latter asked Yitzhaq Shamir if the Likud would support their initiative to put forward a draft bill for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections, to be presented after the Knesset recess.

Yitzhaq Shamir said he was opposed to early elections and, in his view, the government should continue to function, particularly in the economic and social spheres. Regarding the issue of the international conference, he said he hopes there will be negative movement on this idea. However, he said that if the topic came up for a decision by the Cabinet, whether it is accepted or not, the Cabinet would conclude its term and then there would be room to discuss early elections. He noted that, as far as the matter depends on him, he does not favor early elections.

The situation in Judaea and Samaria and the settlements were also raised in the conversation. The Tehiya members spoke about the establishment of new settlements, and Prime Minister Shamir told them that what is important to him is that settlement has not stopped for a single day even during the time of this government, and that in fact there has not been a freeze. He said the establishment of new settlements in accordance with government decisions has been postponed because of the issue of the international conference, but it will be put forward again.

ALGERIA

Bulgarian Leader Zhivkov Arrives for Visit

LD201207 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of State and general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, arrived in Algeria today for an official visit at the invitation of Chadli Bendjedid, FLN secretary general and president of the republic.

Talks between Presidents Bendjedid and Zhivkov are scheduled to begin soon at the Dar el-Mithaq Palace.

Opens Talks With Bendjedid

LD201425 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Algerian-Bulgarian political talks began at Villa Djenane el-Mithaq this morning under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general, and Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian People's Republic State Council.

LIBYA

Mauritanian Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

Departs Tripoli

LD200956 Tripoli JANA in English 0841 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr, 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Mr Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diayane, the foreign minister of Mauritania, and the delegation accompanying him yesterday left Tripoli after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

The minister was seen off at the airport by Mr Mubarak al-Shamekh, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Telecommunication and Maritime Transport.

Solidarity Declared

LD201506 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison summoned the Arab ambassadors accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah this afternoon and informed them of the following: The Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation expressed his country's concern about the wall built by Morocco on the Mauritanian border. This wall threatens its security. Morocco takes orders from Americans and Israelis and has become an agent of colonialist circles. We in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah declare our solidarity with Mauritania and continue to support it. We inform the Arab states of this position and ask them to stand against the treacherous policy adopted by the king of Morocco.

Goukouni Oueddei 'Ready for Reconciliation'

LD201523 Tripoli JANA in English 1417 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Cotonu, Al-Tayr 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Goukouni Oueddei declared that he stands by twenty years of revolutionary struggle at the head of Frolinat and consequently he is not ready to bow before those who are in Ndjamena. Goukouni said in a statement quoted by international French radio yesterday that he was ready for reconciliation if it meant cooperation amongst Chadians and struggle for development.

Chad Threatens To Occupy Sudanese Land

LD200923 Tripoli JANA in English 0821 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Tayr 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The charge d'affaires of the clique of mutiny of agent Habre in Sudan threatened to occupy the Sudanese territory.

Al-Adhwa paper pointed to the possibility that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry would draw the attention of the charge d'affaires as to the seriousness of his statements which prejudice the sovereignty of Sudan and construe an intervention in the internal affairs of the country.

Egyptian Forces Reportedly Positioned in Sudan

LD200913 Tripoli JANA in English 0820 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Tayr 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — *Al-Ayyam* reported that Egyptian military forces crossed the border to Sudanese territory and that they are still there at a position situated 22 kilometres from the border deep inside the Sudanese land.

The paper quoted the Sudanese member of parliament, Mr Muhammad Salah Ibrahim, as saying that the Egyptian forces did not withdraw from the Sudanese territory yet and that he did not rule out the possibility that the presence was part of the imperialist strategy in Sudan and the region.

Mr Muhammad Salah Ibrahim said that he raised the issue and that he shall do so again in parliament.

On the other hand the paper reported that the Sudanese Government urged the Egyptian authorities to withdraw their forces outside the country but the Egyptian regime ignored the request.

Pacific 'Revolutionary' Forces Resume Conference

LD201044 Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Misratah, Al Tayr 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The conference of revolutionary and progressive forces and peace movements in the Pacific resumed its proceedings last night.

The evening session was addressed by the delegate of the Australian native aboriginies who highlighted the history of collective

murder and oppression to which his people were subjected since the coming of the white man to Australia.

Mr. Michael Mash [name as received] asserted that the aboriginies are still subjected to the repression and liquidation at the hands of the Australian Government similar to that used by Britain and the white man when they first came to Australia.

He pointed out the suffering of his people including wide-spread unemployment, high death rate and illiteracy. He said the suffering of the aboriginies is worse than the suffering by blacks in South Africa and similar to the American Administration acts of terrorism against the natives and other peoples like the people of Great Jamahiriyah.

Ronald Sambou [spelling as received] read a speech on the National Alliance of Justice and Democracy in the Philippines condemning U.S. presence in the Pacific especially in the Philippines and the threat it poses to international peace and security as a result of intense presence of military bases and nuclear weapons. He asserted that the struggle of peoples in Southeast Asia cannot be stopped by American imperialism.

The delegate of Hawaii addressed the conference condemning colonial practices by the United States against the people of Hawaii and its attempts for their total liquidation so as to perpetuate its forced occupation of the islands.

Mohammad Mahai [spelling as received], the vice president of the Malisian [spelling as received] Party addressed the conference saluting the struggle of peoples for the freedom of Southeast Asia and the Pacific from imperialist presence.

He called for joint struggle against imperialism and its agents. Mr. Mahai hailed the efforts of the internationalist leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi towards the support and backing for peoples aspiring for their freedom and he expressed the solidarity of the Malisian people with the people of Great Jamahiriyah encountering American imperialism.

Dr. Abdul Razzaq [spelling as received] from the Liberation Front of Moroa addressed the conference condemning American acts of aggression against the people of Great Jamahiriyah. He exposed the U.S. terroristic practices from American base in the Philippines against the peoples of Southeast Asia and others like the Palestinian Arab people as the Americans use their warplanes and fleets in support of the Zionist enemy in its wars on Arabs.

He declared the support of the people of Moroa with all revolutionary movements against imperialism everywhere.

Mr. Igi Abdullah [spelling as received], from the Liberation Movement of Sumatra addressed the conference calling for unity of action amongst progressive and revolutionary movements encountering imperialist intervention and hostilities.

MOROCCO

Delegation Returns From APU Conference in Mali

LD201333 Rabat MAP in English 1201 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Rabat, Apr 20 (MAP) — The Moroccan parliamentary delegation to the 19th conference of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) held in Bamako, Mali, flew back home Sunday.

The head of the delegation, Abdelaziz Hafidi Alaoui, who chairs the Union's Executive Committee, said the 19th session discussed a number of economic, social and political issues. The Moroccan delegation had actively participated in the works of the conference at the level of both Executive Committee and the follow-up committee of the Arab-African dialogue, Alaoui said.

Resolutions and recommendations adopted by the conference pertain to the economic situation in Africa, the continent's indebtedness, the problem of land-locked countries and the latest developments in South Africa.

The Moroccan delegation had extensive talks with other participating delegations as well as with Malian officials including the prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the minister of the interior.

The delegation which was received by President Moussa Traore also conferred with the speaker of the Malian National Assembly, Hafidi Alaoui said, specifying that all delegations have lauded the sovereign's efforts for world peace and that Malian officials have expressed understanding concerning Morocco's territorial integrity. Malian officials, Alaoui went on, also voiced their determination to enhance cooperation relations with Morocco.

Trade Minister Departs for Group of 77 Meeting

LD210421 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Rabat, Apr 20, (MAP) — Moroccan Minister of Trade and Industry Abdallah el-Azmani Saturday headed for Cuba to attend the preparatory meetings of the Group of 77 conference.

The conference will start its works on Tuesday in Havana.

SUDAN

Al-Mirghani Renews Invitation to Mubarak

EA201023 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani has renewed an invitation to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to visit Sudan. He did so when Husayn 'Abbas Musharrafah, the Egyptian ambassador to Khartoum, called on him today at the end of his term of office in Sudan. Abbas Musharrafah said that several subjects were discussed during the meeting, including the idea of establishing a university in Port Sudan, which will be affiliated with the Suez University in Egypt. The ambassador added that he informed the chairman that the shaykh of Al-

Azhar is prepared to establish a high religious institute in the northern region. Ahmad al-Mirghani expressed his gratitude [passage indistinct].

Al-Mahdi Receives Chadian Envoy, Habre Message

JN201411 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum April 20 (SUNA) — Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi received a message from President Hissein Habre of Chad.

The message was conveyed by Chadian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ahmed [name as received] who arrived here yesterday.

Al-Mahdi who conferred with the Chadian envoy said the meeting centered on setting a date for the forthcoming joint meeting between the Libyan and the Chadian. [sentence as received]

The Chadian minister had outlined that Habre's message and noted that the Organization of African Unity "OAU" committee will hold a meeting in Libreville on April 27 to discuss the dispute between Libya and Chad.

Industry Minister Returns From Japan, ROK

JN201402 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1021 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA) — Minister of Industry Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil al-Mahdi returned from Tokyo yesterday following working visits to Japan and the ROK at the invitation of industry ministers in the two countries. His tour included talks on industrial cooperation in various fields.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Returns From Egypt, DPRK, USSR Tour

EA190358 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, returned to Addis Ababa today after completing his official and friendly working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, the DPRK, and the USSR.

The comrade secretary general was met on arrival at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fikre Selasie Wogderes, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Comrade Fiseha Desta, member of the Politburo and secretary of the WPE Central Committee.

Also present were members and alternate members of the WPE Central Committee Politburo, members of the WPE Central Committee, and the ambassadors of Egypt, the DPRK, and the USSR in Addis Ababa.

Ugandan President Makes Stopover, Holds Talks

EA201306 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni made a stopover in Addis Ababa today on his way home from Pyongyang, in the DPRK. He held talks with Comrade Fisseha Eesta, member of the Politburo and secretary of the WPE Central Committee. President Museveni was met on arrival at Bole International Airport by Comrade Fisseha.

Their discussions, which took place in the airport VIP lounge, were marked by an extensive exchange of views on the friendly relations between the two sisterly countries. Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and foreign minister, as well as other members of the WPE Central Committee, attended the talks.

Iranian Officials Discuss Resource Exploitation

LD172350 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA — Director General of Economic Relations Bureau of Iran's Foreign Ministry Mohammad-Javad Larijani reviewed with Ethiopian officials prospects of Iran-Ethiopia cooperation in the fields of mineral exploitation in Addis Ababa Thursday.

The Ethiopian minister of mines and energy said to the Iranian official that there are good grounds for Iran-Ethiopia collaboration in exploiting gold, phosphate, natural gas, and oil and also in such other areas as dam building and exploitation of natural resources.

A joint communique was issued Thursday following the last round of talks between an Iranian delegation and their Ethiopian counterparts in Addis Ababa.

Eritrean Rebels Report Combat Operations

Mechanized Brigade Attacked

EA181519 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] On 14 April, our heroic people's militia attacked an enemy mechanized brigade [preceding two words in English] and forced it to flee. During the engagement our heroic fighters killed 20 enemy soldiers, wounded 27, and captured another 2. In addition, they seized three light machine guns, six Kalashnikov rifles, a radio communications set, and a quantity of ammunition and grenades.

11 'Enemy Soldiers' Killed

EA172254 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Summary] Akele Guzay — Between 1100 and 1200 on 15 April, EPLF and territorial militia forces attacked an enemy unit on the Sengeneiti-Adi Keih Road in the town of Mai Seraw. Four enemy vehicles were burned, 11 enemy soldiers were killed, and 9 others were captured.

TANZANIA

Ugandan President Visits Dar es Salaam

Meets With Mwinyi

EA201706 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] President Yoweri Museveni has paid a brief visit to Dar es Salaam, where he held talks with President Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania at State House.

The Ugandan leader flew in from the DPRK, where he attended the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of the birthday of President Kim Il-song. He was met at Dar es Salaam Airport by the Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense, Mr Salim Ahmed Salim; the Ugandan minister of transport and communications, Mr Kirunda Kivejinja; Uganda's high commissioner to Tanzania, Prince Kaboyo; and senior officials of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi in Tanzania.

Departs After Talks

EA202059 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam — President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda left Dar es Salaam this afternoon after holding private talks with President Ali Hassan Mwinyi at State House in Dar es Salaam. No details of the talks were released.

The Ugandan leader, who arrived in the country today from an official visit to the DPRK, where he was accompanied by four cabinet ministers, was met at Dar es Salaam airport by Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, the Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service.

President Museveni was seen off at the airport by President Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, and other government officials.

President Mwinyi returned to Dar es Salaam today from Zanzibar, where he had gone on a brief Easter holiday.

Communique Issued at End of CCM Hungary Visit

EA162044 Dakar PANA in English 1510 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam, 15 April (SHIHATA/PANA) — The Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (HSWP) and Tanzania's Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) have agreed to continue giving full support to the forces fighting against apartheid and for national independence in the region.

They also fully agreed that the strengthening of European peace and security was in the direct interest of the people outside Europe.

These factors are among overall agreements between the two political parties contained in a communique at the end of a five-day visit by the CCM delegation to Hungary.

UGANDA

President Museveni Returns From DPRK Visit

EA202148 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Excerpts] President Yoweri Museveni returned home this evening from a 6-day state visit to the DPRK where he had gone to attend celebrations marking the 75th birthday of President Kim Il-song. On arrival at Entebbe Airport, President Museveni told a press conference that while in Korea he held discussions with government officials concerning bilateral trade between Uganda and the DPRK. He said that the two countries agreed to foster barter trade involving the transfer of Korean technology to Uganda in exchange for Uganda's tropical products. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, President Museveni made a stopover at (?Kunming) airport in southern China, where he was met by the secretary general of the Chinese [words indistinct] province, Mr (Wang Shin-Wen).

This morning the president also made a stopover at Addis Ababa airport.

Minister Urges Economies During Oil 'Crisis'

EA162112 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The minister of energy, Mr Bidandi Ssali, has assured the nation that the current oil shortage in the country is receiving urgent attention, including the provision of more funds to the usual amount spent every month.

He told the National Resistance Council this afternoon that a shortage of oil is due to a number of factors. The first one is the increase in the world price which he said has resulted into less fuel being imported. He said the government has rectified this situation by providing an additional $1 million to the usual $5 million per month for fuel.

He added that the prevailing oil crisis has been occasioned by the fact that for the last 4 days, no trucks carrying oil have crossed into Uganda from Kenya. He said in spite of efforts to establish the cause for this, the government has not succeeded in coming to the real explanation.

Meanwhile, the minister has directed oil companies in Uganda to control whatever fuel is available in the country. He therefore appealed to everybody to understand the situation and avoid unnecessary use of fuel.

GABON

Radio, TV Transmissions Reduced; Voting Examined

AB162232 Libreville Africa No 1 in French
1230 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Gabon's economic crisis has not spared its media. At a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of President Omar Bongo, the Council of Ministers took measures reducing the hours of transmission of the two radio and television channels, with the exception of Africa No 1 radio station. These measures, as you might guess, will be coupled with cuts in personnel as a result of management problems facing a number of Gabonese firms, which are hard hit by the difficult international economic situation. These steps, according to the government, have three objectives: to improve program quality, economize in the use of equipment, and save money.

Thus, midday television programs will be canceled from Monday to Friday on Channel 1, and from Monday to Saturday on Channel 2. Therefore, the two channels will broadcast during the week from 1900 to 2300 and from 1900 to 2200, respectively. As for radio broadcasts, Channel 1 will sign on at 0600 instead of 0530 and sign off at 0000 instead of 0100, while Channel 2 will only transmit for 18 hours a day instead of the previous 24.

The Council of Ministers' meeting, which was devoted essentially to the media and the changes that are yet to be implemented, also discussed other issues. Among these were the creation of a committee to fight the dreadful disease AIDS, the withdrawal of voting rights for foreigners, and the election of members to provincial and departmental assemblies and to the municipal council on 28 June 1987.

In addition, the council approved the creation of the African Petroleum Producers Association, a body designed to promote cooperation among its member-states. [passage omitted]

ZAIRE

Diplomatic Relations Established With Nicaragua

AB200940 Dakar PANA in French 1100 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Kinshasa, 18 Apr [date as received] (AZAP/PANA) — Zaire and Nicaragua signed a protocol agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations in Kinshasa on Thursday [16 April]. This was announced in a communique issued at the end of an official visit to Zaire from 13 to 16 April by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman.

Under the agreement, the relations, at ambassadorial level, will be based on mutual interest and the principles of equality, noninterference in internal affairs, and mutual respect for sovereignty.

Zaire and Nicaragua expressed their concern at the deterioration of the international political situation, with emphasis on the threat of the arms race to world peace and security. They pledged their determination to work for constructive solutions in accordance with the UN Charter and international laws and principles.

On the economic front, they deplored the continuing global economic crisis and its adverse effects on Third World countries. In this regard, they called for international consultations to ensure fair prices for raw materials produced by developing states and to reduce the crushing burden of foreign debts. According to them, the solution to the debt problems must take account of the debtor country's policy of economic growth. Zaire and Nicaragua stressed the need for South-South cooperation as an indispensable factor in the establishment of a new world economic order.

Meanwhile, Zaire and Nicaragua reiterated their loyalty to the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement as a stabilizing factor in international relations. They called on all member-countries to abide by the spirit of Bandung.

In addition, the two countries voiced their deep concern over the situation in Central America in relation to the dangerous tension prevailing in that part of the world. They emphasized the need to establish, as soon as possible, the atmosphere of peace and security necessary for the cooperation and socioeconomic development of the peoples of Central America and reiterated their opposition to the use of force and their attachment to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other states.

BENIN

Kerekou Leaves for Nouakchott CEAO Meeting

AB201711 Dakar PANA in French 0956 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Cotonou, 20 Apr (ABP/BEN/PANA) — Mathieu Kerekou, the Beninese head of state, left Cotonou for Nouakchott this morning to attend the 12th summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) scheduled to take place from 20 to 21 April.

He recalled the reasons why the last summit, slated for the final week of October 1986, was postponed several times. He added that "it was obvious the consolidation of an organization is a slow but solid process." He noted that it is through "patient and persevering efforts that we shall be able to strengthen subregional and continental cooperation." According to Mr Kerekou, it is "because they were aware of this reality that OAU heads of state and government wisely initiated the strategy of setting up subregional organizations within the framework of the Lagos plan of action and the program of the economic reorganization of our continent. The CEAO, President Kerekou explained, is a good example of South-South collaboration. Benin, it was observed, is a founding member of the CEAO, even if its membership only dates back to November 1985.

CAPE VERDE

Burkina Faso's Sankara Stops Over, Meets Pereira

AB201517 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The president of Burkina Faso stopped over in Cape Verde yesterday on his way to Nouakchott, where he will attend the 12th summit of the CEAO [West African Economic Community]. He was warmly welcomed at Amilcar Cabral Airport on the Island of Sal by the Cape Verdean minister of rural development and fisheries. He was then taken to Praia, where the Cape Verdean head of state, Aristides Pereira, was waiting for him.

This brief visit was marked by several activities. After meeting the press to explain the purpose of his trip, the president of Burkina Faso held a private talk with his Cape Verdean counterpart. At a party in his honor, Comrade Sankara made a point of reiterating the Burkinabe people's willingness to work to strengthen their friendly ties with their Cape Verdean brothers. He also recalled the similarities between Burkina Faso and Cape Verde, noting that both states are experiencing natural setbacks and that some people are opposed to cooperation with others.

The president of Burkina Faso said he was in Cape Verde to learn, as the country is an example to emulate. He also paid tribute to Amilcar Cabral, that great figure who did much for the independence of his country and Africa, adding that African youth (?owed much) to the late leader.

According to our special correspondent, Beatrice Yameogo, the two leaders reaffirmed their faith in African unity, and encouraged the various waves of liberation around the world.

Captain Sankara spent his time yesterday afternoon visiting the Island of Santiago. He inspected the afforestation zone of Monte Vaca and the cooperative of (Mboa Entrada), some 40 km outside the capital city of Praia. The archipelago of Cape Verde is located 455 km from Dakar and includes 10 (?islands) with a population of 340,000.

The president of Burkina Faso left Praia this morning for Nouakchott.

GHANA

Radio Comments on Ministerial Appointments

AB201657 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Kofi Amposah commentary]

[Text] The latest changes in the responsibilities of secretaries are no doubt part of the necessary process of shifting secretaries around for maximum efficiency. As the head of state and chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant J.J. Rawlings, said in an interview with the *Graphic* on the 30th anniversary of Ghana's independence, these changes are often the result of the discovery of the real talent or strong points of individual secretaries in the light of empirical observation of their performance in previous positions.

Thus, when it is discovered that one secretary may perform better in another portfolio, he is moved there to put his abilities in that respect at the service of the nation. The ultimate goal is a smooth and efficient implementation of the policy goals of the PNDC.

Also, as the chairman once said in reference to the deployment of a onetime secretary for agriculture, some of the changes are intended to put some secretaries in a position where they can monitor and motivate purposeful action. This applies to some of the secretaries that moved into the office of the PNDC Secretariat or the coordinating secretary's office. And if some of the changes sometimes have disciplinary implications, this is as it should be, since every good leader must ensure a constant monitoring of performance of the leading functionaries of government with a view to ensuring that their actions are in conformity with the noble goals of accountability and grassroots participation set in the guidelines for PNDC appointees.

It is the prerogative for the head of state to determine who occupies what position in the government, in order to achieve the set goals of the revolution. In doing these reshuffles, he may be guided by intelligence and other fair assessments about the leading cadres. Without the benefit of any such reports on the individuals concerned, the press can only comment generally on the changes.

Quite a number of the secretaries who have been moved around have been at their posts for rather long and the purpose of their being shifted is, among other things, no doubt, to bring the benefit of their experience to bear elsewhere while allowing for fresh ideas to come into the management of their former ministries.

If, along the line, the change helps to stop the onset of that degree of complacency that comes with overfamiliarity, then a good purpose would have been served thereby. One is referring here to the Ministries of Fuel and Power, Transport and Communications, Roads and Highways, as well as that of Works and Housing. Lieutenant Colonel Mensah Gbedemah should bring the benefit of his management expertise and his experience at the monitoring unit at the Castle to bear at Roads and Highways. The suspension of Dr Kofi Sam and Mr Steve Akuffo as secretary and deputy secretary for works and housing, pending the work of the Cement Task Force, appears to be the only natural thing to do. This is because to allow these top officers to be in control of affairs at that ministry, while the task force is at work, could lead to a feeling that the course of justice could be obstructed.

In the end, it is in the interest of these officers that the public is satisfied that justice is done in line with the well-known maxim that justice must not only be done, but it must be manifestly seen to have been done.

IVORY COAST

Head of State To Attend CEAO Nouakchott Summit

AB202201 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The deliberations of the 12th session of the summit of West African Economic Community [CEAO] heads of state opened in Nouakchott this afternoon. The deliberations, in which President Houphouet-Boigny will take part, will center on the reorganization of the group's structures and its financial problems. During the deliberations, which will end tomorrow, the CEAO heads of state will approve the proposals made during the ministerial meeting, which are largely intended to lead the organization on the path of rigor, efficiency, and greater solidarity. The organization's lawyers will also report on their investigation into the whereabouts of 6 billion CFA francs missing from CEAO coffers.

LIBERIA

Student Union Calls for Boycott of Classes

AB201851 Paris AFP in French 1550 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Monrovia, 20 Apr (AFP) — The Liberian Nation Students Union, (LINSU), called on the entire student body today to "firmly defend the freedoms of the university by boycotting classes" next Wednesday, 22 April, in solidarity with a Catholic priest, James Hickey, who was affected by an expulsion order.

The LINSU communique also appealed to teachers to "cooperate in this noble cause." The communique, signed by the LINSU Executive Committee and published today, also read: "We are embarrassed by the abject measures taken against Father Hickey, who served this country with devotion for 23 years."

About 2 weeks ago, President Samuel Doe's government ordered the expulsion of this American priest, who heads the Department of Philosophy at the State University of Liberia, for a "breach of the privileges" granted him as a foreigner. LINSU's call for a boycott follows the decision by the Catholic Church in Monrovia last week to close all its institutions, including hospitals, clinics, and schools, to the public for 24 hours on Wednesday, 22 April.

Senior Catholic Church officials explained that they made the decision to express "their gratitude to Rev Father Hickey for his services to the church and the state." For his part, Rev Walter Richards, the head of the Baptist Church in Liberia, called on the government to give "good reasons" for Father Hickey's expulsion.

In another communique, Catholic bishops have asked political parties to resume dialogue with the government to "put an end to the current political stalemate and the atmosphere of intimidation and fear that reigns in the country." In a 15-point pastoral letter read in all of Liberia's Catholic churches, the bishops earnestly requested the political authorities to "meet without any preconceived ideas at an appropriate venue." The bishops suggested that the meeting be held behind closed doors and as early as possible in order to stamp out "the bitterness tormenting the national conscience." In the letter, the bishops demanded that "urgent measures be taken to ensure a national reconciliation process."

Reconciliation attempts between the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL, the ruling party), led by President Samuel Doe; the Liberian Action Party (LAP); the Unity Party (UP); and finally, the Liberia Unification Party (LUP) — the last three belonging to the opposition — have already failed twice due to the opposition's repeated calls for free general elections. The LAP, LUP, and the UP have accused the NDPL on several occasions of rigging the 1985 elections.

The Liberian Council of Churches, which presided over the initial reconciliation talks, was suspected by the ruling NDPL party of "partiality" to the opposition and was asked to stop its mediation.

NIGERIA

Kano State Schools To Reopen After Kaduna Violence

AB201552 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] In Kano State all institutions of higher learning closed down as a result of recent disturbances in Kaduna State will reopen tomorrow. A government statement in Kano advised all affected students to report at their various institutions tomorrow morning for registration.

ANGOLA

Moxico Commissar Discusses Refugees With Zaire

MB201416 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] During a visit to Zaire, Moxico Provincial Commissar Jaime Batista Donge stressed the need for peace, fraternity, and good-neighborliness between Angola and Zaire. Batista Donge went to Zaire to discuss the repatriation of more than 20,000 Angolan refugees who fled the country in the wake of UNITA attacks. Refugees in the camps of (Chidumbulo), (Divuma), and (Chitengo) have expressed their desire to return home and have reaffirmed their support for the Angolan party and government.

The Moxico provincial commissar promised to do everything in his power to get the refugee problem on the agenda of the next round of talks between Angola and Zaire and thanked the Zairian authorities for providing shelter to the Angolans.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO's Nujoma on 'National Liberation,' Sanctions

EA210555 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] On 19 April 1960, the oppressed Namibian people formed their national liberation movement, the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, to spearhead the struggle for an independent state. During the past 27 years, SWAPO has developed into a formidable force, commanding prestige and admiration both nationally and worldwide as the uncontested vanguard of the Namibian people's struggle.

Recently, the leader of SWAPO, Comrade Sam Nujoma, who has been at the helm of the organization since its formation, granted a wide-ranging interview to two reporters of the Voice of Namibia, SWAPO's radio service, in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare. On prospects for 1987 as far as the liberation of Namibia is concerned, the SWAPO leader reflected the undying optimism of the Namibian people, saying Pretoria is only in a position to delay the territory's independence, not to prevent it.

Responding to a question on the reported desire of the so-called interim government in Namibia for a greater degree of autonomy from South Africa, Comrade Nujoma dismissed it as a deceptive exercise aimed at delaying Namibian independence. He said the so-called ministers of the interim government, being hand-picked collaborators of the Botha racist regime, are not capable of changing anything.

Asked about the so-called (Namwi) foundation, a pseudocultural South African-created organization in northeastern Namibia, the SWAPO president responded thus:

[Begin recording] [Nujoma] Well, it is part of the Bantustan regime and this is, in fact, a part of the special units which are created to massacre the Namibian people, such as the so-called South West African Territory Force, which is commanded by the so-called South African Defense Force, as well as Koevoet, (Tango, Eyowa, Namwi) etc, etc. These are just special units which are there to massacre and terrorize the Namibian people.

[Reporter] Multinational corporations continue to plunder Namibia's resources despite the UN Council for Namibia Decree No 1. What will be done to put this to an end? Is there any need to enact Decree No 2 if the first one has not been fully implemented?

[Nujoma] One, in any colonial situation, multinational corporations are always part and parcel of the repressive colonial machinery. They are there to (?plunder), exploit the natural resources of all the Namibian people, and SWAPO would like, at this stage, to reiterate its position that all multinational corporations currently exploiting Namibia's natural resources under the illegal occupation of Namibia by South Africa must quit Namibia, and a future independent state of Namibia would have to reach new agreements with countries where these multinational corporations are coming from. And such kind of agreements should be made on mutual understanding, cooperation, and above all mutual benefit to all. SWAPO is fighting to completely uproot and eradicate colonialism and exploitation of the African majority by the minority white racists and those multinational corporations.

Now, in the case of Namibia right now, there is a war of national liberation which has been carried out by the SWAPO of Namibia for the last 21 years. These multinational corporations have become part and parcel of the repressive machinery of the South African colonial administration in Namibia. In the first instance, they do pay taxes and royalties to the coffers of the South African colonial administration in Namibia, with which racist South Africa purchases weapons to suppress the political aspirations of the Namibian people. Therefore, they must quit Namibia, and only come back and reach new agreements with a future independent state of Namibia.

[Reporter] Comrade President, can you tell us as to why there is an information blackout in Namibia?

[Nujoma] Well, as you are aware of the fact that there has been a state of emergency in existence since 1972, reinforced by martial law in 1982, and in 1985, so-called Security District Act 1 passed by the South African racist regime through its colonial governor in Namibia. [sentence as heard] This clearly shows that Namibia has been ruled under martial law for many, many years. And there has been a news blackout.

Now that we are struggling to intensify, there has been an escalation of massacres of the masses of the Namibian people, particularly civilians, in the so-called operational areas. For instance, the South African racist army and its specially made-up thugs Koevoet, has been responsible for the destruction of schools, rounding up of teachers, schoolchildren, threw them on the back of the trucks, dumped them in military bases and start training them. Despite that, the Pretoria regime has extended to Namibia the so-called South African Defense Act, under which the Namibian people are conscripted into the colonial army from the age of 17 to 55. This happened because the South African white soldiers are demoralized and they are now trying to use the

Namibians against each other. In fact, the enemy is trying to Namibianize the war.

So, that is why racist South Africa has made this district security act which prevents journalists or newspaper correspondents or even people who are sympathetic towards the Namibian force, not to travel outside Windhoek without a written permit, not from the colonial administrators, but from the police or the South African Army officials.

So the situation is very critical and it must be exposed for what it is, that the South African racist regime has decided to massacre the Namibian people with a view to reduce the Namibian population, before the elections are held.

[Reporter] Comrade President, during the Nonaligned Movement, you accused South Africa of waging a chemical warfare in Namibia. What is the situation now?

[Nujoma] Well, yes, the enemy has been constantly using chemical warfare. We experienced this first on 4 May 1978, when South Africa jet-bombers dropped chemical bombs on the Namibian refugee camp in southern Angola at Cassimba. So this has been going on and there has been very little publicity about the exposure of this racist South Africa using chemical warfare against the Namibian population.

There have been also reports by the civilians that the enemy has been (?throwing poison) in the water where the people normally fetch water in villages, particularly in the so-called operational areas.

[Reporter] On sanctions, has there been any meaningful effort done in response to the call for sanctions against South Africa to be extended to Namibia?

[Nujoma] Well, we consider that the main burden of the struggle for the liberation of Namibia ought to be borne by the Namibians themselves. Therefore, we appreciate the efforts of those countries which have already publicly announced that they are taking economic sanctions against South Africa, like the Government of Denmark which has closed its consulate in South Africa and cancelled all the trade agreements it had with the racist South Africa, and the recent passage of bills in both houses of Congress and the Senate also of the USA. We consider that this is indeed an expression of solidarity and support to the oppressed people of Namibia and South Africa.

But the struggle on the spot ought to be carried out by the Namibian people, for we believe that no nation can be liberated by others. Others can only render assistance, but the indigenous ought to be prepared to suffer for the liberation of their own country.

[Reporter] Could you give an overview on the situation in southern Africa in the light of the death of Samora Machel, increased banditry activities, and the whites-only racist election in South Africa?

[Nujoma] Well, the racist regime of South Africa's policy is to destabilize the Frontline States, more particularly using Namibia, an international territory, as a springboard for military attacks against the Frontline States. We have just experienced last year racist South Africa using the huge air base at (?Mukassa) in the Caprivi strip near (Katuna Murillo), from where their jets flew to attack Makeni, the suburb of Lusaka, and other attacks against the republics of Zimbabwe, Botswana, and what's more, training and infiltration of UNITA bandits from Namibia into Angola to massacre the civilian population in the villages, as well as to destroy the economic infrastructure of that country. The same is applicable to the People's Republic of Mozambique, where MNR bandits are trained, are armed and infiltrated into Mozambique to cause massive destruction to the economic infrastructre.

So therefore, the Frontline States and the national liberation movements must join their forces together and confront the enemy, while the masses of the Namibian people inside Namibia continue to mount demonstrations and strikes. The same is applicable in South Africa by the ANC and the UDF in order to frustrate the enemy efforts to stop the trend of the (?great trend) of liberating Africa.

[Reporter] This year has been declared by SWAPO as the year of rededication to liberation. What do you [words indistinct] plan and the entire people of Namibia to speed up independence?

[Nujoma] Well, the clarion call for rededication to liberation means to redouble, triple our efforts on all fronts. Militarily, the PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] combatants are called upon to intensify the armed liberation struggle countrywide. The youth, the women, the peasants and the workers in Namibia are called upon to redouble their efforts to confront the continued illegal occupation of their country by the Pretoria racist regime.

There has been already a positive response at the beginning of this year. PLAN combatants have inflicted heavy casualties on the racist South African troops. And the workers in Namibia as well as the people, the masses of the Namibian people, are up in arms against racist South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

This is what we mean that the year 1987 is the year of rededication to liberation, and I would like to call upon all the Namibian patriots at this critical hour of our struggle for national liberation to rally behind SWAPO and to follow all the directives of the SWAPO Central Committee in order to confront the enemy in every corner of Namibia, in order to speed up the total emancipation of the motherland, Namibia, within 1987. [end recording]

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Rejects UN Demand on Detainees

MB210544 Johannesburg Television Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha has rejected the statement by the United Nations Security Council calling for the withdrawal of the government order prohibiting protests against detentions withou trial. The Council statement issued last Thursday said the order was contrary to fundamental human

rights and could only aggravate the situation further.

In a letter to the president of the UN Security Council, Mr Botha said the Security Council knew very well that the ANC and its fellow travelers wanted to gain power in South Africa through violence and death. Mr Botha said the ANC and its front organizations in South Africa did not care in the least for democracy or fundamental human rights. Mr Botha said United Nations member-countries should indicate clearly whether they approve of necklace murders. He said it was unacceptable to the South African Government that the ANC should be permitted to get away with murder while no stone was left unturned to criticize the South African Government whenever it took steps to protect South Africans against violence. Mr Botha said no one in South Africa who differed from the government in a normal civilized manner should feel inhibited by the latest restrictions.

Boesak Starts Detainee Release Campaign
MB191833 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1748 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Cape Town April 19 SAPA — Dr Allan Boesak has begun his promised follow-up campaign in defiance of the recently-imposed ban on calls for the release of political detainees with the distribution of thousands of car stickers and posters.

The stickers and posters are also being handed out by the Cape Town office of the Church of the Province of South Africa.

Dr Boesak said today that he had made it plain during last week's inter-denominational protest service in St Georges Cathedral that service was not enough to make the government fully aware of the church's attitude towards this latest emergency regulation.

"The stickers and posters quote from the Bible, Hebrews 13.3: Remember those who are in prison as if you are with them, and those who are being tortured as if you share their body.

"On Friday members of my congregation took them and put them on their cars, Bibles and in their homes.

"We are not just defying the law — as Christians we have no other option but to do what we are doing," said Dr Boesak.

About 1000 of each of the posters and stickers had been printed and these had already been distributed, with requests being made for many more, Dr Boesak said.

This evening, prior to an evensong service in St Georges Cathedral, Cape Town's Anglican archbishop, Desmond Tutu, said he was "fully in support of the campaign."

Buthelezi Urges Afrikaners To Back Independents
MB210606 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0420 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Stellenbosch, Apr 21, SAPA — Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi today linked Afrikaner electoral support for the independent alliance with a demonstration of white belief that only immediate fundamental change would save South Africa from catastrophe.

Every vote for the independents in the forthcoming election would be a vote of real hope for South Africa, he said.

A speech by the KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president made to the Stellenbosch Debating Union was read by Dr Oscar Dhlomo KwaZulu minister of education and a founder of the KwaZulu-Natal Indaba.

Chief Buthelezi made it clear that, although he was aware that Dr Dennis Worrall was standing against Mr Chris Heunis in the Helderberg constituency, he was not in Stellenbosch to campaign for anybody. "I carry nobody's political bags," he said.

Chief Buthelezi said the whole question of whether the country faced a future of peace or chaos rested on whether the National Party swung towards its right wing or its left wing after the election.

It was important for Mr Botha to understand that what he presented to South Africa and the world as "reform" was not good enough. Mr Botha had to be shown that his pace of introducing change was as unacceptable to a big segment of Afrikaners as it was to blacks.

"White voters are given the opportunity through this election to give hope to those of us who are still committed to a negotiated future and to the strategy of non-violence," Chief Buthelezi said. "That is why I say that even if the independents could not restructure the government they need to be supported. Every vote cast for the independents is a vote cast for hope."

Earlier Chief Buthelezi said he was not "a political idiot" who thought the National Party would be unseated after the election of May 6. "The very future of our South Africa will hang on which shoulder Mr P.W. Botha looks over after the election."

Trains Operating Normally, Depots Quiet
MB201148 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1144 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 20, SAPA — All was quiet at SA Transport Services [SATS] depots today and trains were operating "normally," a spokesman for SATS said.

There were no reports of strikes and the work force was up to its full "holiday" strength. Because of the holiday it was not possible to gauge the number of passengers travelling on trains.

"We will only know what that position is tomorrow," he said, when work places reopen after the Easter weekend.

Information Bureau Issues 20 Apr Unrest Report
MB211101 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1058 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 21 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

"Unrest report period 00h01 to 24h00 (20 April)

"A group of 8 black persons attacked a member of the security forces with sharp metal objects in Katlehong (Germiston) the day before yesterday. The member fired a few shots in self defence. Two of his assailants were seriously injured and admitted to the hospital under police guard.

"A black youth was arrested at Tembisa (Kempton Park) yesterday after he and a few others stoned a train at Linindlela Station. No injuries were reported and damage was indicated as minimal.

"The police used tearsmoke to disperse a group of people who gathered illegally in Kwamashu (Durban) yesterday after they refused to disperse peacefully. No injuries or arrests were reported.

"At 08h40 this morning (21 April) a handgrenade was thrown on the parade ground of the Tladi Municipal Police Training Centre in Soweto. The device was thrown from a light delivery vehicle which passed the parade ground while the men were on parade. One black man was killed in the incident. Four men sustained serious injuries and 47 men sustained slight injuries. The origin of the handgrenade has not yet been ascertained. No arrests have yet been made and police investigations are continuing."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

20 Apr Press Review

MB200558[Editorial Report]

SUNDAY TIMES on 'Detention Without Protest'

Commenting on the restrictions announced by the commissioner of police on actions to promote the release of detainees, Johannesburg *Sunday Times* in English on 19 April says in a page 18 editorial: "With what has now become disquieting predictability, the authorities have produced sloppily drafted, yet awesome, regulations which create a whole new category of oppressiveness, even by Pretoria's inventive standards: detention without protest." It seems that the public can now expect "discretion on the part of the authorities as an exception rather than a rule. That, at least, is the history of other states that have chosen Third Worldish methods." "Revolutionaries often use democracy to destroy democracy. But it is also true that authoritarians can sometimes end democracy under the pretence of protecting it. South Africans, as never before, must guard against either happening."

Problems With EPG Initiative

Noting that Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has urged that another initiative "along the lines of the Commonwealth's ill-fated Eminent Persons Group [EPG]" be launched, the *Sunday Times* says in a second editorial on the same page: "The trouble with this type of mission is that it tends to create too much expectation within and without South Africa. And the ensuing disappointment inevitably rebounds on all sides." Furthermore, it is to be hoped that Mulroney "aman not renowned for his sensible grasp of South African issues — is genuine and not simply grandstanding."

Right To Protest Must Be Protected

Writing in his "Another Voice" column on page 19, Harald Pakendorf says in an open letter to Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok: "While understanding why we have so clearly broken with democratic tradition when it comes to courts, banning and all the other really quite terrible things we do, I often wonder whether it is possible to defend democracy in quite undemocratic ways." While it is true that groups like the PFP and AWB can still criticize the government, the general public should have the same right. "Public protests about a wide variety of issues should not be suppressed. With the exception of incitement to violently overthrow the State or to promote the cause of the Communist party, there seems to me to be very little which a person should not be allowed to work towards." "We should lean over backwards to make it clear that protest is a right, and a right which the State will protect. This protection must be part of the daily rhetoric of any political party that has power or aspires to power. The courts, too, must in no way be hampered in their duty to protect this right." As for detention without trial, although the government does need special powers at the moment, "those powers should be reviewed regularly, should not be part of the moral laws of the country, should not give such untrammelled powers to the State, and should never leave the impression that a person could be put away without having some sort of publicly acknowledged, widely known and State-protected right to have people other than those connected with the State review his case and look after his welfare."

Independent Movement Favors Free Association

Writing on the growth of the independent movement on the same page, political correspondent Lester Venter concludes that "the movement, including the academics and others, has brought onto centre-stage the fundamental question in South African politics: whether all South Africans will forever be prepared to accept compulsory group association, or whether they will want the right of freedom of association." The movement feels that it is compulsory group association which has helped bring "the country to its present predicament. It believes South Africans, all of them, have reached a stage in their development where they can be granted the freedom to associate around ideas rather than by their skin colour. It believes this must become a new root concept from which negotiation can spring — with prospects of security and acceptance by all."

SUNDAY STAR on 'Power-Hungry Government'

"Last weekend's regulations attempting to circumscribe what people may do and say about the thousands of their countrymen who are being held is an indictment of a power-hungry government," Johannesburg *The Sunday Star* in English on 19 April says in a page 10 editorial. "No wonder these regulations have sent new shudders round the world: The mere idea that it could become unlawful in some circumstances to protest against detention without trial erodes a cornerstone of any half-way free society. Almost as bad, however, is the cavalier way in which the regulations were framed." "So ill-chosen was the wording" that the government was "forced to offer elaborate (and unconvincing) explanations of what their own regulations actually meant."

NP Has 'Effrontery' To Seek Support

"This is a very strange election indeed with lots of matters we are not supposed to talk about. Strange also how all of these off-limits

issues are things the Nats continually have a hard time explaining — such as what has happened to all that reform we heard so much about; or what happened to turn our economy into a disaster area; or whatever happened to THAT Group Areas report," Peter Soal, PFP MP for Johannesburg North, writes in a column on page 11. "The Nats have brought this country to a situation where we are almost on our knees, both economically and politically, and they now have the effrontery to ask the whites of this country to support them in an apartheid election. I believe we should give as much support as possible to the alliance candidates of the Progressive Federal Party and the New Republic Party and those independents committed to reform and the total abolition of apartheid." "Vote for the Nats? I believe we should kick this incompetent, arrogant, obstinate bunch out of office and replace them with people of vision who have the security and future of our people at heart."

Heunis Fighting 'Battle for His Political Life'

"Mr Chris Heunis is involved in a battle for his political life — and it's not just against erstwhile colleague Dr Denis Worrall at Helderberg," John Maclennan writes on the same page. "Recent polls now say he will achieve a narrow victory, but the campaign is likely to cost him the ultimate prize of the presidency, which was previously vouchsafed for him by State President P.W. Botha when he stepped down in Mr Botha's favour as Cape leader of the National Party." "NP sources are shocked at the lack of direction in Mr Heunis's campaign, by the low number of voters he is attracting to his meetings (at a recent one in Brackenfell fewer than 100 people turned up) and by his failure to provide anything more than the most generalised guides on what should be the burning issue of the election — constitutional development." Furthermore, Heunis appears "unable to cope with Dr Worrall." "The normally vocal Mr Heunis has now become strangely silent after being bested in every exchange with Dr Worrall." Finally, Heunis is "being forced to fight a verligte [enlightened] campaign and this will count against him when a new president has to be chosen. His chief rival, Transvaal leader Mr F.W. de Klerk, faces the same problem, but for the opposite reason. He has to fight a right-wing campaign and this will cost him the votes of verligte Cape MPs."

Detention Without Trial 'Uncivilized'

Detention without trial is, "in a word, uncivilised," Peter Sullivan writes in his "Sullivan on Sunday" column on page 3 of the "Review" section. "But the South African Government and the Commissioner of Police (on whose wrong side I would hate to be) assure us detention without trial is there to ensure civilisation for us all. Uncivilised behaviour to ensure civilisation. Curious."

Government Campaign Based on Fear

The "main ingredient" in the government's election campaign appears to be fear, Harry Schwarz, PFP MP for Yeoville, writes in another column on page 3 of the "Review" section. "Fear of what might happen if power is not kept in white hands. Fear of a deterioration of standards, concern about overseas pressure, worry that there is really no solution so one must just hang in and use the security apparatus available. The Opposition is painted as being in bed with the ANC, the Communists, overseas enemies and everything un-South African." However, the National Party's campaign "may have some strange results in that some of the fear element which is designed to woo PFP votes is actually driving some Nationalists to the Conservative Party." Instead of using its campaign to address the questions that must be answered, "the Government object is to win the election and to make up from the PFP what it anticipates it will lose to the CP. It might well be disappointed. But in all this, what is the future of South Africa? The heat and emotion of the election campaign is going to solve nothing. The abuse and smears and the debating points are not going to provide solutions for South Africa's future. While the moderates in South Africa remain fragmented, the extremists are gaining strength."

DIE BURGER: Treurnicht's Footwork

"In his day, CP leader Dr A.P. Treurnicht performed some remarkable political somersaults," observes Cape Town *Die Burger* in Afrikaans on 15 April in a page 16 editorial. "Whenever he was confronted with these somersaults, he used a heavy dose of semantic shuffling to get out of them." "What is happening now? The CP is busily engaged in the same sort of practices Dr Treurnicht rejected in the past. This is confirmed by the CP's propaganda at election meetings, which stresses that the NP has spent a great deal of money on the blacks, but does not address the basic issues in the upcoming election." "The CP's deputy chairman in Natal, Mr Pat Mohr, openly states that it will not bother him if the PFP wins seats from the NP through the CP's intervention. It is more important to the CP that the leftist PFP win over the NP. Is that not working with the 'liberals' to undermine the NP?" "The same political horses that worked against the NP during the referendum on the new constitutional dispensation are at work again. The ruling passion from all sides is to dismiss the NP's credibility and strongly challenge its methods."

BEELD: Senseless Attacks on Trains

"The setting alight of trains in Soweto is another example of the senseless manner by which the radicals want to plunge the entire country into abject misery," comments Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 16 April in a page 10 editorial. "They do not make allowances for their own people in the process. The burning of trains creates tremendous problems for thousands of black commuters. Some arrive late at work, while others walk or seek alternate modes of transportation. Thousands of blacks who had planned to spend their Easter weekend in the homelands are stranded." "It is high time that the black community began to deal with this terror. How can such a small group of revolutionaries be allowed to impose their will on the whole community?" "What Soweto and other black residential areas need is not the intimidation, blackmail, and arson of the radicals, but a better working relationship with the police to clamp down on this radical element." "Blacks should use this weapon for their own sake and that of their children."

Economic Resurgence Good News

"There is once again a cautious smile on the face of South Africa after the release of the latest economic news," comments a second editorial on the same page. "The dark days of the past 6 months are suddenly half forgotten. The scarcity of money and jobs and the lack of optimism of that time is, for most people, a thing of the past." "This economic optimism can also be used to build a better future in more sectors than the economy alone."

21 Apr Press Review

MB210447[Editorial Report]

STAR: Prospects for Peace

"The corollary of violence begets violence must surely be that peace induces peace," observes Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 20 April in a page 6 editorial. "Don't tell us that it is a naive philosophy which results only in twice the injury; and that dedicated neutrals have been trampled underfoot in major wars." "Tomorrow we must all face anew the animus within the country; the knives drawn in the election campaign; the hostility directed from abroad; the reports of armaments build-ups in neighbouring countries." "What if priorities could be changed in southern Africa...?" "Southern Africa could be resurrected and its families could face all of the tomorrows with renewed faith."

NP Propagandists 'Losing Their Touch'

"Even though they are confident of doing well in the general election, there is some desperation in Nationalist propagandists' attempts to bend the campaign round to some of their favourite issues," remarks Tos Wentzel in a column on the same page. "They clearly feel the need for a bit of pre-election kragdadigheid [show of force] to placate the verkramptes [ultraconservatives] and to draw them away from the Conservative Party and the Herstigte Nasionale Party and at the same time scare the verligtes [enlightened] away from voting for the Progressive Federal Party of the independents." "To the irritation of Nationalist propagandists, their efforts are just not getting off the ground properly, partly because the opposition forces are resisting their attempts to choose the battlefield. Many voters continue to be interested in the issue of the Group Areas Act. There is also unhappiness about the economic situation...." "Nationalist propagandists have always been past-masters at throwing out red herrings at election times...but they seem to be losing their touch. Their plans are not coming together as they had hoped and as a result their already rather hysterical pitch is likely to increase considerably by May 6. In South African politics hell hath no fury like a Nationalist propagandist who gets the impression that he is being jilted by the voters."

ZAMBIA

Minister Rejects Renewed RSA Claims on ANC

MB201847 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria has repeated its veiled intention to attack Zambia and other frontliners by claiming that it is clear that groups of ANC freedom fighters are still preparing to leave Zambia and Tanzania to disrupt the frothcoming whites-only elections.

That is according to a telex message sent to State House in Lusaka over the weekend. Pretoria's Foreign Affairs Department claimed that ANC fighters are still preparing to leave Zambia and Tanzania with the intention of gathering close to South Africa's border for infiltration in the course of a few days.

Reacting to the claim, the Zambian minister of national guidance, information, and broadcasting services, Milimo Punabantu, who showed the reporters the telex message, said there was absolutely no truth in the South African claims.

The claims followed one by Foreign Minister Pik Botha last week that ANC fighters were gathering near Lusaka with a view to invading South Africa. Foreign Affairs Minister Luke Mwananshiku refuted the claim, saying South Africa was trying to justify her intended attack on Frontline States to boost the morale of white voters.

And Comrade Punabantu made it clear there were no ANC armies massing in Zambia or in any other Frontline States, adding that it was wrong to use Frontline States for the confrontation taking place inside South Africa. He stressed that the urban guerrilla war building up in South Africa was caused by apartheid policy, and it was useless to blackmail neighboring countries for what was taking place in that country. The minister urged Zambians to take the South African threat seriously and remain alert, to defend themselves wherever or whenever the racists' attacks would take place.

The telex message was addressed to the Department of Foreign Affairs, State House, Lusaka, and advised that serious account be taken of the request in the aforementioned communication.

Defense Official on Mozambican Rebel Incursions

MB201216 Dakar PANA in English 1120 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Lusaka, 20 April (PANA) — Refugees fleeing rampaging activities of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) rebels have swelled by over 10,000 in the Eastern Province of Zambia over the past few weeks bringing the total to 37,000, the *Zambia Daily Mail* reported today.

The paper reported that Eastern Province Central Committee Member Chibesa Kankasa confirmed this yesterday.

"Refugess now number 37,000. They are flocking in and we are extending camp facilities to keep 50,000 at Ukwimi, she said. Kankasa said as a short term measure, the Ukwimi refugee settlement is being developed to contain the 10,000 people before the rains.

The refugees are now at Petauke, Chadidza and Katete and would soon be moved to Ukwimi to enable them to prepare fields.

Meanwhile, Zambian Secretary of State for Defense and Security Alex Shapi has said the MNR were forced to raid Zambia due to hunger: "They are coming to steal food from Zambians who are being kidnapped and compelled to transport the loot before being released. We are working out measures to protect people and property, he said.

70 Percent Increase in Gasoline Prices Announced

MB210950 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The prices of petrol have been increased by about 70 percent with effect from midnight tonight. The same oil spokesman who announced this in Lusaka said the move had been necessary because of the substantial increase in the kwacha cost of importing petroleum.

Following the increase in the wholesale price of all petroleum products by the ZIMCO [Zambia Industrial and Mining Corporation] subsidiaries, the new retail prices in Lusaka are as follows: premium, 5 kwacha 36 ngwee, from 3 kwacha 6 ngwee; regular 4 kwacha 92 ngwee, from the previous 2 kwacha 18 ngwee.

Also affected is the price of kerosene, which has risen to 2 kwacha 90 ngwee from 1 kwacha 6 ngwee; and gas oil has had its price increased to 3 kwacha 47 ngwee from 1 kwacha 95 ngwee.

The prices of the fuel products in areas other than Lusaka will vary in relation to the cost of transportation.

The new retail prices ahve been arrived at in consultation with the oil marketing companies responsible for distribution. In addition to the mentioned increases, other products like [passage indistinct].

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Says South Africa Planning New 'Subversion'

MB181855 Harare Domestic Service in English
1745 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has announced that the Pretoria regime is working on a new strategy to effect sabotage and subversion against Zimbabwe. Comrade Mugabe told guests at the traditional independence luncheon at the Conference Center that the Botha regime is planning similar action against Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, and Angola. The prime minister, however, said that he could not disclose details of the planned sabotage until further (?notice)

Comrade Mugabe also spoke strongly against nepotism at workplaces, which he said is now rife, with promotions and appointments being based on nepotism, tribal estate, and regional (?preferences) practiced by senior officers. He warned the nation that by resorting to such practices, Zimbabwe will only be working to (?a standstill). He said the criterion should be objectivity and not subjectivity. The prime minister exhorted the nation to work harder, as any developmental process that could be achieved [as heard], saying we have to make a [word indistinct] for our independence.

Celebrations Mark 7th Anniversary of Independence

President Addresses Rally

MB181034 Harare Domestic Service in English
0802 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Speech by President Canaan Banana at a rally marking the 7th anniversary of independence at the National Sports Stadium in Harare — live]

[Excerpts] The honorable prime minister of Zimbabwe, Comrade Robert Mugabe; the honorable deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda, and Madam Muzenda; the president of the Senate, Comrade Makonde, and Madam Makonde; the speaker of the House of Assembly, Comrade Mutasa, and Madam Mutasa; Honorable Ministers; Your Excellencies; members of the diplomatic corps [6-second break in transmission] the 8th year of its sovereign independence. As we take stock of events and developments with which we as a people have had to deal during these past 12 months, and as we square our shoulders to face the difficulties and challences which (?fall) in our hands, in many respects the 12-month period just ended has been a momentous one for our nation, not only in the demands it has made and the sacrifices it has required from each and every one from us, but also in the rewards it has brought. It is a period which has given us much cause for confidence in ourselves and in our abilities to meet those demands and challenges head on.

However, it is also a period which has underlined the need for national vigilance and a further decisive commitment to hard honest work by one and all if we are to justify that self-confidence, and if we are to continue to advance in an increasingly difficult regional and international environment. There can be no denying the fact that our region continues in so many respects to be dominated by the ugly specter of apartheid. Indeed, there is little in our day-to-day lives here in Zimbabwe or in any of the other Frontline or SADCC states that is not in one way or another affected by the conflict which continues to rage within South Africa. As the majority struggle to throw off the shackles of a cruel, inhuman system, and as the minority, evermore divided and evermore afraid, struggle by all means to shore up the crumbling edifice of apartheid and preserve the undeserved privileged positions there within, as pressures both internal and external continue to mount against the racist regime in Pretoria, that accursed regime strikes back with massive repression and brutality within and an ever-escalating campaign of destabilization and war without aimed at undermining the sovereignty, security, and general well-being of all those nations whose sole crime is to have chosen the path of democracy. [passage omitted]

My fellow Zimbabweans, another significant development of the past 12 months has been the emergence of Zimbabwe as a player of some considerable influence within the international community. Nowhere was this fact more clearly demonstrated than in the decision by our fellow nonaligned countries that Zimbabwe should host the eighth summit of heads of state and government of the Nonaligned Movement, and that our prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, should assume the chairmanship of the movement for the next 3 years. Once again, please allow me on your behalf to warmly congratulate Comrade Mugabe as the

captain ably steering such a colossal ship laden with such a diverse crew of diverse interests. We are aware the ship he captains is sailing through stormy waters, but we have every confidence in his ability to steer and to keep course. [applause]

My fellow Zimbabweans, if I have dwelt upon our achievements and spoken about our progress in the past 12 months, it has simply been to demonstrate that notwithstanding difficulties we have to face in this part of the world, and as a landlocked developing nation in general, the government has nonetheless succeeded in making truly remarkable progress in further consolidating our independence and in the realization of our vital developmental goals. If I have sounded a word of caution and advised that we may not be able to achieve all our objectives as and when we would like, it is merely to underline the fact that many hardships and many difficulties still lie ahead. Our region has suffered extended periods of drought, coinciding with periods of stagnation and depression in the international market. Indeed, the southern half of Zimbabwe and parts of the midlands are currently in the throes of a severe and crippling drought. Crops have withered and died, the entire livestock is threatened, and many people are close to being pestered with starvation. As a government we are not only concerned; we view this as a matter of grave and urgent concern, and plans are under way to alleviate the plight of those affected. The government is determined to ensure that every deserving case will be attended to, and no single Zimbabwean will be allowed to die of starvation. Government has already embarked on schemes designed to bring relief supplies to the needy, and food for work programs is one such plan. I appeal to all those affected by the drought to cooperate with the agencies involved in the relief exercise. [passage omitted]

Comrade Prime Minister, distinguished guests, comrades and friends: May I now take this opportunity to wish you all a happy 7th anniversary birthday and may you see many more. I thank you.

Mugabe Delivers Speech

MB180515 Harare Domestic Service in English 1802 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Address by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe to the nation on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of independence; place not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends: Good evening. At midnight today our chronological independence clock will strike seven, 7 full years of sovereign independence, but also 7 years of hard toil, often accompanied by good rewards, through at times yielding quite a mixed grill. They have not been quite the biblical 7 fat years, nor have they been always thin. We have had a mixture of fat and thin cows, with the fat cows, you will admit, tending to devour the thin, although the thin cows have, on occasions like this year, had quite a bite. That sounds rather allegorical, doesn't it? I am sure, however, that if we sent you a questionnaire requiring that you review our 7 years and score our national successes and failures across the board, we would probably emerge with more successes than failures. You will agree, I hope, that the primary functions of our nation inherent in the reality of our independence, was and remains that of sustaining and consolidating, and in that regard we have succeded to withstand both the internal and external forces of destabilization.

To my party and government, therefore, and I am sure also to most of you, the principal national task facing us since 1980 has been to ensure the political success of our independence. This is why we felt we had, on the one hand, to work assiduously to achieve political harmony through a process of national reconciliation and, on the other, to build strong defense and police forces, all of which, you will admit, have performed wonderfully. I am glad that our public is growing more and more appreciative of the sterling role of our forces. We must congratulate the Army, the Air Force, and our security branch for a job well done.

If we had had to reckon with only internal threats to our political order and national sovereignty, we would certainly have not felt the need to build a large Army and Air Force, both of which have had substantially to be equipped so they could have an appreciable degree of military capability. And this has meant procuring more modern and more sophisticated but quite expensive weaponry. The major threat we face is that posed by the apartheid regime of South Africa, whose unprovoked aggressive stance has wreaked havoc in both human and material terms in our region. None of its (?six) neighbors has been free from attack by this belligerent big bully who, no matter what peaceful stance you adopt, will always find specious reasons for seeking attack.

The most recent Botha allegations directed at Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Botswana, which has countries providing facilities to the ANC freedom fighters to attack South Africa allegedly in order to disrupt the May elections, are a case in point. It is Aesop's fable of the bloodthirsty wolf and the innocent lamb taking a real form once again. The wolf, you will remember, was standing upstream, while the lamb was drinking water downstream, when out of the blue and in a gruff and angry voice, the wolf accused the lamb of muddying the water that he was drinking. Excuse me, sir, replied the gentle lamb, but the water is flowing downstream from your end towards my end. The wolf, still refusing to be beaten by this natural logic, and staring even more sternly at the lamb, still charged that the previous year the lamb had insulted his father at the market place. It could not have been me, sir, for a year ago I had not been born, replied the lamb. If it wasn't you, then it was your father, came a still angrier reply from the wolf, as he pounced upon his innocent victim. This, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends, is what South Africa desires to be the fate of its innocent neighbors. Pik Botha's latest charges must be seen as a psychological prelude to attacks long conceived and planned as an election campaign booster. It is because we do not intend to fall easy prey to the apartheid monster that, reluctantly, we have had to divert resources from other socioeconomic areas to defense, for the defense of our national sovereignty comes before everything else.

Inasmuch as our independence and freedom struggle was in the main sustained from Mozambique, and in that way was coextensive with Mozambique's independence, the preservation of Mozambican independence is indeed the preservation of our own. The enemy's strategy in our geopolitical setting has been very clear. The Renamo bandit surrogates have for quite a long time now followed a two-pronged operational program that has been

aimed, on the one hand, at toppling the Frelimo government, and, on the other, at disrupting our routes, adversely affecting thereby our economic performance so, eventually, our political system would weaken and our government is overthrown in favor of South African puppets. We cannot stand by and see this evil strategy of our annihilation occur in the fashion of the game of dominoes. That is why we are fighting in Mozambique, and that is also why the other Frontlines States in their various ways are extending assistance of Mozambique. In the ultimate, [as heard] our ability to defend and sustain our individual freedom and independence will be enhanced by our combined ability as regional brothers to defend and sustain that freedom and independence on a collective basis.

Earlier I made reference to our political reconciliation thrust as one way in which we have attempted to consolidate our national unity and sustain our political order. Our efforts, as a party and government, to achieve this objective have continued to this day. In regard to the ZANU-ZAPU relationship, I am sorry to say we have been deadlocked for far too long on the question of unity, and the Central Committee of my party has recently decided that the talks be discontinued, for they are serving no useful purpose. The issue of political unity is, no doubt, a national question for us, (?will be) today and will remain a national question for all generations to come, even after it has been resolved.

The year 1987 is, by virtue of its constitutional importance, quite crucial in that the constitutional flexibility it ushers in will enable us to forge a political order more in keeping with the wishes of Zimbabweans, Zimbabweans black, Zimbabweans white, colored, and Asian. It is in this social context that we shall be looking at such questions as the parliamentary system and parliamentary representation, the party system, the nature of the presidency, and similar others. No doubt, we shall soon rid ourselves of racial representation. But this should not be seen as an exercise at getting rid of the whites from parliament for, for us to do so, is by implication to substitute one racial representation for another.

Our nonracial stance and the principle of political justice to which we are committed do not allow us to trample on the rights of any community, even though racial representation is to us as anathema as is tribal representation. You may retort that if our formula is nonracial, why then make reference to blacks, whites, coloreds, and Asians? I have done so because these are starting points, it being the approach the Lancaster House Constitution preferred. I am certain in my own mind that after the discussion and consultations we envisage to take place in a multipartisan manner, we shall emerge with a political and constitutional formula which will achieve for us far greater national unity than that we have hitherto sought to achieve. I wish all of us well in this regard.

Ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends, the independence of a nation confers on that nation the sovereign status to determine its own destiny, independently of others, which means the right of self-determination, so-called. The path to that destiny is politically, economically, socially, and culturally determined by the people themselves. Indeed, independence could very well turn into a sovereign empty shell, unless the people themselves through their political, economic, and social machinery, provide it with significant content. Imagine what our fate would have been if, after the Lancaster House Constitution and the attainment of our independence on 18 April 1980, we had like Tennyson's lotus eaters said to ourselves: Now that we are free and independent, why should life all but labor be? Let us from now on stop work, for we shall eat independence, wear independence, singing and dancing independence, forever and ever enjoying and feasting ourselves on our independence. I doubt whether any of us would have survived to this day if we had followed the lotus eaters' formua. [passage omitted]

The next 3 years are going to be extremely demanding on our skills and industry as a nation if we are to meet our national goals and commitments. It should not be forgotten that part of our good economic and social performance over the last 7 years was due to grants and loans generously made available to us by friendly countries. The volume of such grants has declined, while some of the loans have now started maturing as they become due for repayment. And so, as we move into the future, more and more loans will be maturing. So far, however, we have honored all our debts and we wish to continue doing so in the future. But we have done so on the basis of a general formula that reduces foreign exchange allocations to our socioeconomic sectors, hence the cry about shortage of foreign currency and the resultant shortage of consumer and other items.

Although our export performance, as already indicated, has been improving, resulting thus in increased foreign exchange earnings, the debt burden has also been growing. We incurred debts because of the inadequacy of our own resources to sustain our development programs. The result is that when the foreign exchange cake is presented, we naturally and in all fairness feel bound to invite our creditors to join us in partaking of the cake. In my view — and I am sure this is also the view of our economists — we just must work hard to expand our production capacity.

Ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends, the 7 years of our independence have seen Zimbabwe assume and consolidate its place and role in the international community, emerging from the illegality of UDI [Unilateral Declaration of Independence] and the consequent isolation imposed by the world on it. Its acceptance at independence by other nations, and not only by those in our region, but also by many others, big and small, in the whole international community, has opened up new vistas to it. Our trade and economic relations have widened beyond description, whether we look at ourselves from the point of view of SADCC, or of the PTA [Preferential Trade Area], or that of our ACP [Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific]-EEC relations, or purely from a bilateral basis. We have formed numerous joint commissions with various countries of the Western, Eastern, or Third World, new friendships, new economic and cultural relations, new markets, new sources of supply. New relations in various other dimensions have emerged and continue to expand.

In respect of international organizations we have, after becoming members, fully sustained our membership in the OAU, the United Nations and its agencies or associated bodies, in the Commonwealth, and in the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, of which we are currently chairman. Whilst maintaining friendly relations with Eastern and Western bloc countries, we have remained firm and constant in observing our nonaligned posture. In an effort to enhance our international relations and create

closer friendships, we also have established diplomatic relations with several Western, Eastern, and Third World countries, including those in Africa. We have sought no enemies, but friends, and have always championed alone or with other members of the Frontline States forum the cause of peace and not war. It is in this context that we have urged the resolution of the political problems created by apartheid in South Africa and Namibia, where we support fully the freedom and independence struggle being gallantly waged by the oppressed masses of these countries under their legitimate movements, as we also continue to urge the international community to impose sanctions against South Africa.

Similarly, it is our desire for peace and justice which impels us to stand behind the Palestinian people and to appeal to the international community to help in securing a viable peace formula to the Palestinian question. [passage omitted]

Nkomo Protests ZANU Decision Halting Unity Talks

MB181422 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1300 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] In Zimbabwe, opposition leader Joshua Nkomo has boycotted the celebrations to mark the 7th anniversary of independence. He has taken the action in protest at the decision to halt unity talks between his ZAPU party and the ruling ZANU-PF of Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Mr Mugabe announced the move in his independence address last night, saying only the talks had been deadlocked for too long and were serving no useful purpose.

Mr Nkomo says he heard the announcement purely by chance, while he was at an independence ball. He says he does not know what will happen next, because he has not been officially told of the decision. Tens of thousands of Zimbabweans have gathered in stadiums in Harare and Bulawayo to celebrate independence.

Comments on Breakdown

MB191520 Dakar PANA in English 1435 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Bulawayo, 19 April (ZIANA/PANA) — The leader of Zimbabwe's PF-ZAPU, Dr Joshua Nkomo today described the breakdown of unity talks with the ruling ZANU (PF) as a temporary setback and urged Zimbabweans to be cool and collected.

Everyone must realise that unity is bigger than any central committee or two central committees put together. It must not be shaken by any moves of political parties, and the latest development should be regarded as a temporary setback, Dr Nkomo told ZIANA in an interview.

He was commenting for the first time on the statement by Zimbabwe's prime minister, Robert Mugabe, that the unity talks had broken down and that the ZANU (PF) Central Committee had decided that the exercise be discontinued.

Dr Nkomo, an ally of Mr Mugabe under the Patriotic Front (from which both ZAPU and ZANU derive the abbreviation (PF)) during the struggle against Ian Smith's minority Rhodesian regime, said there was a desire for unity in Zimbabwe, and nothing should be done to disturb that.

Sabotage Linked to Talks

MB210625 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] A Zimbabwean goods train has been derailed between Harare and Bulawayo. The incident occurred within hours of an announcement by Prime Minister Robert Mugabe that unity talks between his ruling ZANU party and Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU had been cancelled. More from Peter Thornicroft in Harare:

[Thornicroft] A rough estimate of the damage [words indistinct]. Dissident activity in Matebeleland has fallen off noticeably in the last year. There were high hopes that unity would bring it to an end altogether. At a Defense Forces Day over the Easter weekend the turnout was poor in Bulawayo following the cancellation of the unity talks.

The National Railways of Zimbabwe will not comment about the derailment and referred questions to the Ministry of Defense. There may be no connection between the derailment and the unity talks breakdown, but there is speculation in some quarters that the failure could result in a resurgence of dissident action in drought afflicted Matebeleland.

PRC's Gu Mu, Delegation Arrive for Anniversary

MB161218 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The former deputy prime minister of the People's Republic of China, Comrade Gu Mu, has arrived in Harare to attend Zimbabwe's 7th independence anniversary celebration. Comrade Gu is heading a 25-member delegation. He is also in the capital for the official handing over ceremony of the Zimbabwe National Sports Stadium.

He was met at the airport this morning by the deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda; the minister of national housing and public construction, Comrade Simbarashe Mumbengegwi; and the deputy secretary of foreign affairs, Elleck Mashingaidze.

Meanwhile, the Chinese president, Comrade Li Xiannian, the prime minister, Zhao Ziyang, have sent congratulatory messages to their Zimbabwean counterparts to mark Zimbabwe's 7th anniversary of independence.

Comrade Zhao praised Zimbabwe for working hard to extend development and cooperation among developing countries and added that China treasured relations with Zimbabwe's Government. He also commended the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, for his government's foreign policy of peace and nonalignment and proclaimed [words indistinct] important role in international affairs. Comrade Zhao expressed China's support for Zimbabwe's unwavering stand against imperialism, Zionism,

and apartheid.

In his message to President Canaan Banana, the Chinese head of state said China admires the achievements of the Zimbabwean Government since independence in 1980. Comrade Li said the people of Zimbabwe have scored gratifying successes in the noble course of safeguarding their hard-won independence.

Dedicates Sports Stadium

MB161717 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] The minister of public construction and national housing, Comrade Simbarashe Mumbengegwi, today officially received the National Sports Stadium from the state councillor of the People's Republic of China, Comrade Gu Mu, and the vice minister of foreign economic and trade relations, Comrade Lu.

Comrade Gu told the guests that other projects between Zimbabwe and China are in the pipeline. He also said that Chinese and Zimbabwean experts are exploring the possibilities in the mining sector in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, Comrade Gu Mu is to attend Zimbabwe's 7th independence anniversary celebration.

Mugabe Meets Cuba's Malmierca, Criticizes Newspaper

MB201202 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, has strongly condemned the *Sunday Mail* for publishing what he called lies concerning the alleged deportation of Zimbabwean student teachers from Cuba. Speaking to newsmen at his residence in Harare today after wide-ranging talks with the visiting Cuban foreign minister, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca, Comrade Mugabe strongly emphasized that Zimbabwe cannot afford to have a reactionary press. The prime minister vowed to deal personally with the writer of the story, saying the article was meant to destroy the good relations which have existed between Zimbabwe and Cuba. Comrade Mugabe said he has personally apologized to the Cuban foreign minister.

Last week, the *Sunday Mail* reported that Cuba had deported 15 Zimbabwean students for what the country's mission in Harare termed as medical reasons.

Malmierca Cited on Talks

MB201430 Dakar PANA in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Harare, 20 April (ZIANA/PANA) — The prime minister, Robert Mugabe, today apologised to Cuba over an article published a fortnight ago by *The Sunday Mail*, a Harare weekly, and promised to deal with the paper personally.

Mugabe, speaking after talks with the visiting Cuban foreign minister, Isidoro Malmierca, was reacting to the paper's front page article that alleged that 60 Zimbabwean students studying in Cuba had been deported for unspecified health problems. [passage omitted]

Malmierca came to Harare two weeks ago and attended last week's Nonaligned Movement (NAM) special committee meeting on Palestine.

Referring to the newspaper article, Malmierca said: In no way will whatever [as received] small incident affect the solid and everlasting relationship between our peoples and governments. Incidents such as this one will only serve to improve the quality of our relationship.

He said his government would continue to give Zimbabwean students the opportunity to train in various fields.

The Cuban minister said he also (?discussed with) Mugabe the work of NAM in trying to solve various international problems. They had reviewed NAM meetings on southern Africa, Latin America and Caribbean and the Middle East and the Palestinian question.

In (?the short) period of time this year, we have been able to witness action on the situations in southern Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Middle East, he said.

Foreign Currency Allocations Take 'Major Cut'

MB160714 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0528 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 16 SAPA — The Zimbabwean Government has announced a major cut of up to 33 per cent in foreign currency allocations for the second half of this year, SABC radio news reported.

The minister of finance, economic planning and development, Dr Bernard Chidzero, told parliament the decision had been taken after a careful analysis of the state of economy. Dr Chidzero, however, assured members of parliament that the government was making every effort to improve the situation.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII.	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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